The Bellman of London.

BRINGING TO LIGHT THE MOST NOTORIOVS VILLANIES THAT ARE NOW Practiſed in the Kingdome.

Profitable for Gentlemen, Lawyers, Merchants, Citizens, Farmers, Maſters of Houſholds, and all ſorts of ſeruants to marke, and delightfull for all men to read.

Lege, Perlege, Relege.

The ſecond Impreſſion.

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The poore BELMAN of London.

To all thoſe that either by office are ſworne to puniſh, or in their owne loue to vertue, wiſh to haue the diſorders of a State amended, humbly *dedicateth theſe his Diſcoueries.*

AT your *Gates* the *Belman* of London beateth, to awaken your eies, to looke back after certaine *Grand* and *common Abuſes*, that daily walke by you, keeping aloof (in corners) out of the reach of Law. It muſt be the hand of your authoritie that muſt fetch in theſe *Rebels* to the Weale-publike, and your arme that muſt ſtrike them. I chuſe you as *Patrons*, (not to my booke) but to defend me from thoſe Monſters, whoſe dennes I breake open in this my diſcouery. More dangerous they are to a State, then a *Ciuill Warre*, becauſe their villanies are more ſubtile and more enduring. The *Belman* notwithſtanding hath plaid the *Owle* (who is the *Embleme* of wiſedome) for ſleeping in the day, as abhorring to behold the impieties of this laſt and worſt age of the world. In the night therefore hath hee ſtolne forth, and with the helpe of his lanthorne and candle (by which is figured *Circumſpection*) hath he brought to light, that broode of miſ-

chiefe, which is ingendred in the wombe of darkneſſe. A monſtrous birth is it, and therfore worthy to be looked at: from monſtrous parents doth it proceed, and therefore the ſight of it to be fearefull. But of ſuch rare temper are your eies, that (as if they had ſunne-beames in them) they are able to exhale vp all theſe contagious breaths which poiſon a kingdome, and ſo to ſperſe them into thin aire, that they ſhall vtterly vaniſh, & be no more offenſiue. In this blacke ſhore of miſchiefe haue I ſailed along, and beene a faithfull diſcouerer of all the creekes, rockes, gulfes, and quick-ſands, in and about it: Be you therefore as ſecond aduenturers, and furniſh men armed with iuſtice, and well furniſhed in all points, with a deſire to conquer theſe Sauages, and ſend them to ſet ſtrong and fearefull footing amongſt them. It ſhall be honour to your ſelues, and them, and a rich benefite to the *Republike* wherein you liue. For my owne part I vowe, that as I *dedicate* theſe my labours to your hands, ſo will I *deuote* my life to the ſafety of my country, in defending her from theſe Serpents: I will waſte out mine eies with my candles, and watch from midnight till the riſing vp of the morning, my *Bel* ſhall euer be ringing, and that faithfull ſeruant of mine (the Dog that followes me) be euer biting of theſe wilde beaſtes, till they be all driuen into one heard, and ſo hunted into the toyles of the *Law*. Accept therefore of this *Night-prize* (my *Graue* and worthy *Patrons*) drawne rudely, and preſented boldly, becauſe I know the colours laide vpon it, are not counterfeit as thoſe of borrowed beauties: but this is a picture of *Villany*, drawne to the life, of purpoſe that life might be drawn from it. None can be offēded with it, but ſuch as are guilty to themſelues, that they are ſuch as are inrold in this Muſter booke, for whoſe anger, or whoſe ſtab, I care not. At no mans boſome doe I particularly ſtrike, but onely

at

The Belmans Epiſtle.

at the body of *Vice* in *Generall*: if my manner of *Fight* (with theſe dangerous Maſters of the *Ignobleſt Science* that euer was in any kingdome) do get but applauſe; the *Belman* ſhall ſhortly bid you to another *Prize*, where you ſhall ſee him play at other kind of weapons.

Deuoted night and day yours,

The Belman of London.

A Table of the principall matters contained in this Booke.

A Discouery of all the idle Vagabonds in England: their conditions: their lawes amongst themselues: their degrees and orders: their meetings and their maners of liuing (both men and women.)

A discouery of certaine secret villanies, which borrow to themselues the names of Lawes.

AS

Cheating Law. Bernards Law.
Vincents Law. The blacke Art.
Courbing Law. Prigging Law.
Lifting Law. High Law.
Sacking Law. Figging Law.
Fiue Iumpes at Leapfrog.

THE

THE
Bel-man of London,
Discouering the most notable villanies now in the Kingdome.

ENTRING into a contemplation of the Changes of Time, how all things that are vnder the Moone are as variable as her lookes are: how Goodnes growes crooked, & hath almost lost her shape: how Vertue goes poorely and is not regarded: how Villany iets in silkes, & (like a God) adored: And when I consider how all the pleasures of this life are but as Childrens dreames, how all the glories of the world are but artificiall fire workes, that keepe a blazing for a time, and yet die in stinking smoakes: and how all the labours of man are like the tossing of the windes, which striue to cast vp heapes of dust that in the end are not worth the gathering: Then, euen then, doe I grow wearie of my selfe: then am I neither in loue with the beautie of the Sunne, neither stand I gazing at the dauncing of the starres: I neither wonder at the stately measures of the clouds, the nimble galliards of the water, nor the wanton trippings of the winde, nor am delighted when the earth decks vp her head with flowers, I wish my selfe a Beast, because men are so bad, that Beastes excell them in goodnes, and abhorre all company, because the best is but teadious, the worst loathsom, both are the destroyers of time, & both must be maintain'd with cost.

Since then, ỹ in the Noblest Streames there are such Whirlpooles to swallow vs vp, such Rocks that threaten danger, (if not Ship-wracke,) and such Quick-sands to make vs sinke, who would not willingly take votone all the saties of his ambition, and cast anchor on a safe and retired shore, which is to be found in no place, if not in the Countrie? O blessed life! patterne

The praise of the countrie life.

terne of that which our first Parents leade, the state of Kinges (now) being but a slaverie to that of theirs. O schoole of contemplation! O thou picture of the whole world, drawn in a little compasse! O thou Perspective glasse, in whome we may behold vppon earth, all the frame and Wonders of heauen! How happie (how thrice happie) is hee that not playing with his winges in the golden flames of the Court, nor setting his foote into the bustle throngs of the Cittie, nor running vp and down in the intricate mazes of the law, can bee content in the winter to sit by a countrie fire, and in the summer to lay his head on the greene pillowes of the earth, where his sleepe shall be soft slumbers, and his wakings pleasant as golden dreames. Hast thou a desire to rule, get vp to the mountaines, and thou shalt see the greatest trees stand trembling before thee, to doe thee reuerence, those maiest thou call thy Nobles: thou shalt haue ranckes of Oakes on each side of thee, which thou mayest call thy Guard: thou shalt see Willowes bending at euerie blast, whome thou maiest call thy flatterers: thou shalt see vallies humbled at thy feete, whome thou mayest tearme thy slaues. Wouldst thou behold battailes? step into the fields, there shalt thou see excellent combats betweene the standing Corne and the Windes. Art thou a tyrant and delightest in the fall of Great ones? muster then thy harnessers together, and downe with those proud Summer Lordes, when they are at the highest. Wouldst thou haue Subiectes paie thee? the Plow tells thee in Corne, the Medow giues thee her pasture, the Trees pay custom with their fruite, the Oxe bestowes vpon thee his labour, the Sheepe his woll. Dost thou call for musick? No prince in the world keepes more skilfull musitians: the birds are thy consort, and the winde instruments they play vpon, yeeld ten thousand tunes. Art thou addicted to study, Heauen is thy Lybrarie, the Sunne Moone and Starres are thy Bookes, and teach thee Astronomy: By obseruing them, thou makest Almanacks to thy selfe, that serue for all seasons. That great Volumne is thine Ephemerides, out of which thou maist calculate the predictions of times to followe: yea in the verie clouds are written lessons of Diuinitie for thee, to instruct thee in wisdome: the turning ouer their leaues, teach thee the variations of seasons, and how to dispose thy businesse for all weathers. If the practise of Physicke delight thee, what

Aphorismes

Aphorismes can all the Doctours in the world set down more certaine? what rules for good diet can they draw out more singuler? what medicines for health can they compound more restoratiue? what vertues can al their extracted Quintessences infill into our bodies more soueraine, than those which the earth of her owne bountie bestowes for our preseruation, and whose working powers are dayly experimented in beastes for our example? O you Plants of the field, and you flowers of the Garden (Natures Apothecaries, & Earths Chirurgions!) your stalkes are slender, yet you your selues are the chiefest pillars that vphold mans life: what eloquence doth the sight receiue onely in beholding you? what comfort does the sence of smelling finde onely in your odours? and how many that haue had halfe their bodies in their graues, haue bene brought backe againe onely by your sacred Iuces? Who therefore would not consume his youth in company of these creatures, that haue power in them to keepe off old age longer than it would, or when old age hath come, are able to giue it the liuelihood and vigour of youth? Who would not rather sit at the foote of a hill tending a flocke of sheep then at the helm of Authoritie, controuling the stubborne and vnruly multitude? Better it is in the solitarie woods, and in the wilde fields, to be a man among beastes then in the midest of a peopled Cittie, to be a beast among men. In the homely village art thou more safe, than in a fortified castle: the slinges of Enuy, nor the bullets of Treason, are neuer shot through those thin walles: Sound healthes are drunke out of the wholesome wodden dish, when the cup of gold boyles ouer with poison. The Countrie cottage is neither battred down by the cannon in time of warre, nor pestred with clamorous suites in time of peace. The fall of Cedars that tumble from the tops of Kingdomes, the Ruine of great houses, that bury Families in their ouerthrow, and the noise of Shipwracks, that beget euen chilles in the hearts of Citties, neuer send their terrors thither: that place stands as safe from the shocke of such violent stormes, as the Bay-tree does from lightning.

The admiration of these delyties made me so enamoured, and so really in loue with the inheritor of them, that the flames of my affection were (in their burning) onely carried thither. So that in stead of paued streetes, I trod the vnbeaten pathes of the

the fields, the ranks of trees were to me as great buildings, Lambes & skipping kids, were as my merrie companions, the cleare fountaine as my cupps of wine, roots and herbes as the table of an Ordinarie, the Dialogues of birds as the Scenes of a play, and the open emptie Meddowes as the proud and populous Cittie. Thus did I wish to live, thus to die: and having wandred long (like a Timonist) hating men because they dishonoured their creation. At length fortune led mee by the hand into a place so curiouslie built by nature, as if it had beene the pallace where she purposed none should lie but her selfe: It was a Grone set thicke with Trees, which grew in such order, that they made a perfect cirkle, insomuch, that I stood in feare, it was kept by Fayries, and that I was brought into it by enchantment. The branches of the Trees (like so many handes) reached ouer one to another, and in their embracements held so fast together, that their boughes made a goodly greene roofe, which being touched by the winde, it was a pleasure to behold so large a seeling to moone: vpon euerie branch sat a consort of singers, so that euerie tree shewed like a Musick roome. The floore of this summer-house was paued all ouer with yelow field-flowers, and with white and red dazies, vppon which the sun casting but a wanton eye, you would haue sworne the one had beene nailes of Golde, the other studdes of enamelled Siluer. Amazed I was when I did but looke into this little paradice, and afraid to enter, doubting whether it were some hallowed ground or no, for I could finde no pathe that directed me to it: neither the foote of any man, nor the hoofe of any beast had beaten down the grasse: for the blades of it stood so hie and so euen, as if their lengthes had beene giuen them by one measure. The melody which the birds made, and the varietie of all sortes of fruites which the trees promised, with the pretty and harmeles murmuring of a shallow stream, running in windings through ỹ middest of it (whose noise went like a chime of bels, charming ỹ eyes to sleepe) put me in minde of that Garde whereof our great grādfire was the keeper. I euen wept for sorrow to think he should be so foolish, as to be driuen from a place of such happinesse: and blamed him in my minde for leaving such a president behinde him, because by his fall wee lost his felicitie, and by his frailtie all men are now apt to hinder themselues and their posteritie

through

through the intitements of women.

Into this Groue therefore at last I did venter, resoluing to make it the temple where my thoughts should spend themselues in fruitfull contemplation: I purposed to deuide the day into Actes, as if the ground had beene a stage, and that the life which there I meant to leade, should haue beene but as a Play. Some of my houres should haue runne out in Speculation of the admirable workemanship of heauen, and of the orders which the Celestiall bodies are gouerned by: Some of my houres shold haue carried me vp and downe the earth, and haue shewen vnto me the qualities and proportions of the creatures that breed vpon it: at another time would I haue written Satyres against the impietie of the world: At another I would haue chaunted Roundelayes, in honour of the Countrie life. The rest of my time should haue fetched in prouision for my bodie. These were appointed to bee my Actes in this goodly Treater: the musicke betweene were the Singers of the Wood, the audience such as Orpheus plaide vnto, and those were Mountaines and Trees, who (vnlesse the whispering windes troubled them with their noise) would haue beene verie attentiue. But whilst I was setting forth to runne this Goale, beholde, casting vp mine eye, I espyed a farre off certaine cloudes of smoke, whose vapors ascended vp so blacke and thicke into the element, as if the sighes of hell had burst the bowels of the earth, and were flying vp toward heauen, to pul downe more vengeance. Before I saw this, I beleeued that this place had beene free from all resort: desirous therefore to learne who they were that neighboured so nie and in a solitarie wood, (that stood so farre from inhabited buildings) I stept forward and came to the place, which (what by nature and what by Art) was so fenced about with Trees, quicksethedges and bushes, which were growne so high, (that but for the smoak) it was not possible to imagine how a house could there be builded. There was but one path leading to it, which (after much searching and many turnings) being found, boldly went I on, and arriued at a homely Cottage: the verie doore of it put me in minde of that poore Inne of good Baucis and Philæmon, where a God was a Guest; for it was so lowe, that euen a dwarf might haue seemed a tall man, entring into it, so much should it haue made him stoope. This house stood not like Great mens places,

ces, alwaies shut, but wide open, as if Bountie had déen the porter, and being within, it séemd Hospitalitie dwelt there, and had giuen you welcome. For there was a table readie couered, with faire linen, nut-browne round trenchers lay in good order, with bread & salt, keeping their stats in the middle of the board. The roome it selfe was not sumptuous but hansome, of indifferent bignes, but not very large: the windowes were spred with hearbes, the chimney drest vp with greene boughes, & the floore strewed with bulrushes, as if some lasse were that morne to bee martied: but neither saw I any bride or bride-groome, nor heard I any musicke: onely in the next roome (which was the kitchen, and into which I went) was there as much stirring, as cōmonly is to be seene in a Booth, vpon the first day of the opening of a Fayre. Some sate turning of spits, and the place being all smoaky, made me thinke on hell, for the joynts of meate lay as if they had bene broyling in the infernall fire, the turne-spits, (who were poore tottered greasie fellowes) poking like so many hée diuels, Some were basting and [illegible] like feindes powring scalding oyle vppon the damned: others were myncing of pye-meate, and shewed like hangmen cutting vp of quarters, whilst another whose eies glowed with the [illegible] of the fire, stood poaking in at ẏ mouth of an Ouen, torturing [illegible]les as it were in the furnace of Lucifer. There was such chopping of hearbes, such tossing of ladles, such [illegible] of [illegible] scalding of pigges, such singing, such [illegible], such laughing, [illegible] swearing, and such running to and fro, as if Pluto had that [illegible] bidden all his friends to a feast, and that these had bene [illegible] lokes that drest the dinner.

At the last espying an old nimble-tongd beldam who séemed to haue the command of the place, to her I stepped, and in faire tearmes requested to know the name of the dwelling, why this great cheere was prouided, and who were the Guests, for as yet I saw no bodie but this Band of the Blacke Guard. In stead of her tongue, her eies (that had started backe a good way into her head, as if they durst not looke out) made me an answere. I perceiued by her very countenance, that I was not welcome, which afterwards she confirmed in wordes, telling me the place was not for me, the feast was for others, and that I must instantly be gone, for that a strange kind of people were that day to bee

merry

merry there. No Rhethoricke that I could vse, had power to win her to discouer who these Guests shold be, till at ẏ length, a Bribe preuailing more then a Parler, she tolde mee I should be a Spectator of the Comedy in hand, and in a priuate gallerie beholde all the Actors, vppon condition I would sit quietly and say nothing. And for that purpose was I conuaied into an vpper loft, where (vnseene) I might (through a wooden Lattice that had the prospect of the dyning roome) both see and heare all that was to be done or spoken.

There lay I like a Scoute to discouer the comming of the expected enemy, who was to set vpon this good cheere, and to batter downe the walles of hot pyes and Pasties. Mine eies euen aked with staring towards the doore, to spie when these states shold enter, ducking downe with their heads like so many Geese going into a Barne. At length (with bagge and baggage) they came dropping in one after another, sometimes three in a company, some times fiue, now more, now lesse, til in the end the great Hall was so full that it swarmed with them. I know you wonder, and haue longing thoughts to know what Generation this is, that liued in this hospitable familiarity: but let me tel you they are a people for whome the world cares not, neither care they for the world, they are all freemen, yet scorne to liue in cities: great trauellers they are, and yet neuer from home, poore they are, and yet haue their dyet from the best mens tables, They are neither olde Seruingmen (for all I say they are poore) that haue beene courtiers, and are now past carrying of cloake-bags: nor yong gallants that haue serued in the Low Countries, (albeit many of them goe vpon wodden legges) nor hungry schollers, that al their life time haue kept a wrangling in the schooles, and in the end are glad to teach Children their Horne-bookes: neither are they decayed Poets, whose wits like a fooles Land, holde out but a twelue month, and then they liue vpon the scraps of other mens inuention: no nor Players they be, who out of an ambition to weare the best Jerkin (in a Strowling company) or to act great parts, forsake the stately and our more than Romain Cittie Stages, to trauell vpon the hard hoofe, from village to village for cheese & butter-milk: neither are they any of those terrible noises (with thredbare cloakes) that liue by red lattices and Iuy-bushes, hauing authoritie to thrust into any mans

roome, onely speaking but this, Will you haue any musicke? Neither are they Cittizens that haue beene blowne vp (without Gunpowder) and by that meanes haue bene free of the Grate at Ludgate, some fiue times: no, no, this is a Ging of good fellowes in whome there is more brother-hod: this is a Crew that is not the Damned Crew (for they walke in Sattin) but this is the Ragged Regiment: Villains they are by birth, Varlets by education, Knaues by profession, Beggers by ẏ Statute & Rogues by act of Parliament. They are the idle Drones of a Countrie, the Caterpillers of a common-wealth, and the Ægiptian lice of a Kingdome. And albeit that at other times their attire was fitting to their trade of liuing, yet now were they all in hansome cleane linnen, because this was one of their Quarter dinners, for you must vnderstand, that (as afterward I learnt by intelligẽce) they holde these solemne meetings in foure seuerall seasons of the yeare at least, and in seuerall places to auoide discouerie.

The whole assembly being thus gathered together, One amongst the rest, who tooke vpon him a Seniority ouer the rest, charg'd euerie man to answere to his name, to see if the Jurie were full: ẏ Bill by which he meant to call them being a double ing of ale (that had the spirit of Aqua vitæ in it, it smelt so strõg) and that he held in his hand: Another standing by with a toast, Nutmeg and Ginger, ready to crie Vous auez as they were cald, and all that were in the roome hauing single-pots by the eares, which like Pistols were charged to goe off so soon as euer they heard their names. This Ceremony being set abroach, an O-yes was made: But he that was Rector Chori (the Captain of the Tatterdemalions) spying one to march vnder his cullors, that had neuer before serued in these lowsie warres, pawsed awhile, (after he had taken his first draught, to tast the dexteritie of the liquor) & then began (Justice-like) to examine this Yonger Brother vpon Interrogatories.

The first question he demaunded, was, if he were stalled to the Rogue or no? the poore Hungarian answered yes, hee was: then was he asked by whome he was stalled, and where, and in what manner of complement it was done? to which question the nouice hauing not so much beggerly knowledge as might make a learned reply, forthwith did the wicked Elder cõmaund the yong Slauonians that stood about him, to disturnish him that

was

was so vnskilfull in the Rudiments of Rogerie, of his best garment and to carrie it presently to the Bowsin Ken (that was to say to the tap-house) and there to pawn it for so much strong Ale, as could be ventur'd vpon it. Thus the cheef Rag-a-muffen gaue in charge, the rest obeyed and did so, whilst the other suffered himselfe to be stript, and durst not resist their base authority.

This done, the Grand Signior called for a Gage of Bowse, which belike signified a quart of drink, for presently a pot of Ale being put into his hand, he made the young Squire kneele downe, and powring the full pot on his pate, vttered these words. I doe stall thee to the Rogue, by vertue of this souraigne English liquor, so that hence forth it shall be lawfull for thee to Cant (that is to say) to be a Vagabond and beg, and to speake that Pedlers French, or that Canting language, which is to be found among none but beggers: with that, the stalled Gentleman rose all the rest in the roome hanging vpon him for ioy, like so many dogs about a Bear, and leaping about him with showtes like so many mad-men.

But a Scilence being proclaimed, all wher hushed, whilst Hee that plaide the Maister Deuils part amongst these Helhounds, after a shrug or two giuen. thus began to speake to him that was new entred into the damned fraternitie. Brother Begger (quoth he) because thou art yet but a meere freshman in our Colledge, I charge thee to hang thine eares to my lips, and to learne the orders of our house, which thou must obserue, vpon paine either to be beaten with our cudgels the next time thou art met, or else to be stript out of any garments that are worth the taking from thee. First therefore (being no better than a plaine ordinarie Rogue, marry in time thou maist rise to more preferment amongst vs) thou art not to wander vp and downe all countries, but to walk onely like an Vnderkeeper of a forrest) in that quarter which is allotted vnto thee: Thou art likewise to giue way to any of vs that haue borne all the offices of the Wallet before thee, and vpon holding vp a finger, to auoid any towne or countrie Village, where thou seest we are forraging to victuall our armye that march along with vs. For (my poore Villiaco) thou must know, that there are degrees of Superioritie and Inferioritie in our Societie. As there

are in the proudest cōpany. We haue amōgst vs some eighteen or nineteene seuerall offices for men, and about seauen or eight for women: The cheefest of vs are called Vprightmen, (I my deere Sun-burnt-brother, if all those that are the Chiefest men in other companies were Vprightmen too, what good dealing would there be in all occupations?) The next are Rufflers, thē haue we Anglers, but they sildome catch Fish till they goe vp werst ward for Flounders: then are there Rogues, (which liuery thou thy self wearest:) next are wilde Rogues, then Priggers, thē Palliards: then Fraters: then Tom of Bedlams band of mad-caps, otherwise called Poore Toms flocke of Wilde-geese (whom heer ẏ feest by his black and blew naked armes, to bee a man beaten to the world) and those wilde-geese or haire-braines are called Abraham-men: in the next squadron march our braue Whip-iacks, at the taile of them come crawling our counterfeit Crankes: in another troop are Gabling Domerers then Curtals follow at their heeles, and they bring along with them strange Enginers, called Irish-Toyles: After whome follow the Swigmen, the Iarkemen, the Patricoes, and last the Kinchin-Coes. These are ẏ tottered Regiments, ẏ make vp our maine armie. The victualers to the Campe are women, and of those, some are Glymerers, some Bawdy-Baskets, some Autem-Morts: others Walking-morts: some Dopers, others are Dels, the last and least are called Kinchin-Morts, with all which Comrades, thou shalt in thy beggerlye peregrination, meete, conuerse, and be drunke, and in a short time know their natures and roguish conditions without the helpe of a Tutor. At these words the victualls came smoaking into the hall to be set vpon the boord, whereupon the whole swarme squatted downe, being as vnciuill in manners, as vnhansome in apparell, onely the Vprightmen and Rufflers had the graine of the board giuen them, and sat at vpper end of the table: the rest took their trenchers as they hapned into their hands, yet so, that euerie knaue had his Quean close by his side.

The table being thus furnished both with Guestes & meat, instead of Grace, euerie one drew out a knife, rapt out a round oath, and cried Proface you mad Rogues, and so fell to. They fed more hungerly, than if they had come from the seege of Ierusalem: not a word was heard amongst them for a long time,

onely

onely their teeth make a noyse, as if so many Mills had bene grinding. Rats going to ỹ assault of a Holland cheese could not moze valliantly lay about them: may my Lozds Maiors Houds at ỹ dog-house being bidden to the funerall banquet of a dead hozse, could not picke the bones cleaner: At length when the platters began to looke leane, and their bellies grew plumpe, then went their tanges: But such a noise made they, such a confusion was there of beggerly tales, some gabling in their Canting language, others in their own, that ỹ scolding at ten conduits, & the gossiping of fifteene bake-houses is as delicate musicke to it. At the length, drunken healthes reeled vp and down the table, and then it would haue made a Phisition himselfe sicke, but to haue looked vpon the waters that came from them. The whole roome shewed a farre off (but that there was heard such a noise) like a dutch peece of Drollery, for they sate at table as if they had bene so many Antickes: A Painters prentice could not drawe worse faces than they themselues made, besides those which God gaue them: na, not a painter himselfe vary a picture into more strange and more ill-fauoured gestures, than were to be seene in the action of their bodies: for some did nothing but weepe & protest loue to their Morts, another swore daggers & knives to cut the throate of his Dopye, if hee found her tripping. Some slept being drowned so deepe in Ale-dregs, that they slauered again: others sung baudie songs, another crew deuised curses vpon Iustices of Peace, Head-boroughes & Constables, grinning their teeth so hard together for anger, that the grating of a saw in a stone-cutters yard, whẽ it flies in sunder ỹ ribs of Marble, makes not a more horrible noise. In ỹ end one who tooke vpon him to be speaker to the whole house, (bidding the French & English pox on their yelping throates,) cried out for silence, telling them it was his turne (according to the customes of their meeting) to make an Oration in praise of Beggerie, & of those that professe ỹ trade. Here vpon (as if an Owle had happened amõgst so many birds) all their eies did presently stare vpon him: who thus began.

My noble hearts, olde weather-beaten fellowes, and braue English Spirits, I am to giue you that which all the land knowes you iustly deserue (a Roguish commendation,) and you shall haue it. I am to giue Beggers their due praise,

yet what nede I doe that, sithence no man I thinke, will take any thing from them that is their due. To be a Begger is to be a Brauerman, because tis now in fashion for very braue men to Beg. No but what a Rogue am I to build vp your honours vpon examples? doe we not all come into the world like arrant Beggars, without a rag vpon vs? doe we not all goe out of the world like Beggers, sauing onely an old sheete to couer vs? & shall we not walk vp & down in the world like Beggers, with old blankets pind about vs? yes, yes wee will, roared all the Kennell as though it had bene the dogs of Parish garden: Peace cries the Penilesse Orator, and with a Hem proceedes.

What though there be Statutes to Burne vs i'th eares for Rogues? to Dyndge vs i'th hand for pilferers? to whippe vs at posts for being Beggers, and to shackle our heeles i'th stockes for being idle vagabondes? what of this? Are there not other Statutes more sharpe then these to punish the rest of the subiects, that scorne to be our companions? What though a prating Constable, or a red nos'd beadle say to one of vs, Sirra Goodman Rogue, if I serued you well I should se you whipped thorough the town? Alas, Alas, Silly Animals, if all men should haue that which they deserue, we should doe nothing but play the Executioners and tormenters one of another.

A number of taylors would be damnd for keeping a Hell vnder their shop bord: all the brokers would make their Wills at Tiborne, if the searching for stolne goods which they haue receiued, should like a plague but once come amongst them: yea if all were serued in their right kinde, two parts of the land should be whipped at Bridewell for lechery, and three partes (at least) be set i'th stocks for drunkennes. The life of a Begger is the life of Souldier: he suffers hunger and cold in winter, and heate and thirst in Summer: he goes lowsie, he goes lame, hees not regarded, hees not rewarded. here one shines his glorie: The whole Kingdome is but his walk, a whole Cittie is but his parish, in euery mans kitchin is his meate drest, in euery mans seller lyes his beere, and the best mens purses keepe a penny for him to spend.

Since then the profession is ancient (as hauing bene from the beginning) and so generall, that all sorts of people make it their last refuge: Since a number of Artificers maintaine their

houses

houſes by it, Since we and many a thouſand more liue merrily wᵗ it, let vs my braue Tawny-faces, not giue vp our patched cloakes, nor change our coppies, but as we came begers out of our mothers bellies, ſo reſolue: ſet vp your ſtaues vpon this, to returne like beggers into the bowels of the Earth. Dixi.

Scarce was the word Dixi belch'd out of his rotten Allylunges, but all the Bench-whiſtlers from one end to the other, gaue a ringing Plaudite to the Epilogue of his ſpeech, in ſigne of approbation: whereupon they roſe vp as confuſedly as they ſate downe, and hauing paid ſo farre as their purſes would ſtretch for what they had deuoured, making Oes in chalke for the reſt when they met there next, And euery man with his Mot being aſſigned to their quarter, which order giuen, at what following Fates to ſhake hands and what Ale-buſh to tipple with Items likewiſe giuen where to ſtrike downe Geeſe, where to ſteale hennes, and from what hedges to fetch ſheetes, that may ſerue as paiones, away they departed.

Turba Grauis paci, plaudaq; inimica Quieti.

No ſooner were there backes turned, but I that all this while had ſtood in a corner (like a watching candle) to ſee all their villanies, appeared in my likenes; and finding the Coaſt to be perfectly cleere, none remaining in the houſe but the Heſteſſe to theſe Gueſts, her did I ſummon to a ſecond parley. The ſpirit of her owne malt walkt in her brayne-pan, ſo that what with the ſweetneſſe of gaynes which ſhe had gotten by her marchant venturers, and what with the fumes of drinke, which (like a lufty gale to a wind mill) ſet her tongue in going, I found her apt for talk, and taking holde of this opportunitie after ſome intreaty to diſcouer to me what theſe vpright men Ruffers and the reſt where, with their ſeuerall qualities, and manners of life, Thus ſhe began.

An vpright-man.

YOu ſhall vnderſtand then (quoth ſhe) that the chiefeſt of thoſe that were my Tablemen to day, are called Vprightmen, whoſe picture I will drawe to the life before you: An Vpright man is a ſturdy big-bonde knaue, that ne-

ner walkes but (like a commander) with a short troncheon in his hand, which he cals his Filchman. At markets, Faires & other meetings, his voice among Beggers is of the same sound that a Constables is of: it is not to be controld. He is free of all the shiers in England, but never staies in any place long, the reason is, his profession is to be idle, which being looked into, he knowes is punishable, and therefore to avoid the whip he wanders. If he come to a Farmers house, the alms he begs is neither meate nor drinke, but onely money: if any thing else be offered to him, he takes it with disdaine & lates it under a hedge for any that come nere: but in revenge of this, if he spie any geese hennes, ducks, or such like walking spirits haunting the house, with them he coniures about midnight, bring them the nere morning like traytors, either beheading them, or quartering them in pieces: for which purpose, this band of Vpright-men seldome: march without fine or six in a company, so that country people rather give them money for feare then out of any devotion. After this bloodie massacre of the poore innocent pullen, the Actors in their bloudy tragedy, repaire to their Stalling kennes, and those are tipling houses, which will lend money upon any stolne goods, and unto which none but such guests as these resort: there the spits go round, and the cannes walke up and downe, there have they their Morts and their Dopyes, with whome (after they have Bowsed profoundly) they lye (in stead of fetherbeds upon litters of cleane strawe) to encrease the Generation of Rogues and Beggers: For these Vpright-men stand so much upon their reputation, that they scorne any Mort or Dopie should be seene to walke with them; and indeede what neede they care for them, when he may commaund any Dopye to leave another man and to lye with him; the other not daring to murmure against it. An Vpright-man will seldome complaine of want, for whatsoever any one of his profession doth steale, he may chalenge a share of it, yea and may command any inferiour Rogue to fetch in booty to serue his turne. These cary the shapes of soldiers, and can talke of the Low-Countries, though they never were beyond Douer.

A Ruf-

A Ruffler.

THe nert in degres to him is cald a Ruffler: the Ruffler and the Vpright-man are so like in conditions, that you wold sweare them Brothers: they walk with cudgels alike, they profesſe armes alike, though they bee both out at elbowes, and will sweare they lost their limbes in their Countries quarell, when either they are lame by diseases, or haue beene mangled in some drunken quarrell: These commonly are fellowes that haue stood alone in the warres, and whilst others fought, they tooke their heeles and ranne away from their Captaine, or else they haue beene Seruingmen, whome for their behauiour, no man would truſt with a liuery: if they cannot spend their daies to their mindes by their owne begging or robbing of Countrie people that come late from Markets (for vpon those they most vsually exercise their trade) then doe they compell the inferior subiects of their comon-wealth, (as Rogües Palliards, Morts, Dopies &c.) to pay tribute vnto them. A Ruffler after a yeare or two takes state vpon him, and becomes an Vpright-man (but an honeſt man.)

An Angler.

AN Angler is a lymb of an Vprightman, as being deriued from him: their apparell in which they walke is commonly freize Jerkins and gallye slops: in the day time they Beg from house to house, not so much for reliefe as to spye what lyes fit for their nets, which in the night following they filch for. The Rod they angle with, is a staffe of fiue or sixe foote in length, in which within one inch of the top is a little hole boared quite through, into which hole they put an yron hooke, and with the same doe they angle at windowes about midnight, the draught they pluck vp, being apparel, sheets, coueriets, or whatsoeuer their yron hookes can lay hold of: which prize when they haue gotten, they do not presently make sale of it, but after foure or fiue daies, or according as they suspect inquirie will be made after it, doe they bring such goods to a Broaker, (traded vp for the purpose) who lends vpon them

halfe

halfe so much money as they be worth, which notwithstanding serues the Angler a while for spending money, and enritches him that buyes it for a long time after.

A Rogue.

A Rogue is knowne to all men by his name, but not to all men by his conditions, no Puritane can dissemble more then hee, for hee will speake in a lamentable tune and crawle along the streetes, (supporting his body by a staffe) as if there were not life enough in him to put strength into his legs; his head shall be bound about with linnen, loathsome to beholde, and as filthy in colour as the complexion of his face: his apparell is all tattered, his bosome naked, and most commonly no shirt on: not that they are driuen to this miserie by meere want, but that if they had better cloathes giuen them, they would rather sell them to some of their owne fraternitie then weare them, and wander vp and downe in that pitteous manner, onely to moone people to compassion, and to be relieued with money, which being gotten, at night is spent as merilye and as lewdly, as in the day it was won by counterfeit villany. Another sect there be of these, and they are called Sturdy Rogues: these walke from countrie to countrie vnder colour of trauelling to their friendes, or to finde out some kinsman, or else to deliuer some letter to one Gentleman or other, whose name he will haue fairely endorsed on Paper, folded vp for that purpose, and handsomely sealed: others vse this shift, to carrie a Certificate or Passport about them, with the hand and seale of some Iustice to it, giuing notice how hee hath beene whipped for a Vacabond, according to the lawes of the Realme, & that he is now to returne to such a place where he was borne, or dwelt last, by a certaine day limited, which is sure to bee set downe long enough, for all these writings are but counterfeit, they hauing amongst them (of their owne Ranche) that can write and read, who are their Secretaries in this businesse. These fellowes haue fingers as nimble as the Nyght-man, and haue their Alehouses and meeting places, where whatsoeuer they get they spend, and whatsoeuer they spend is to satisfie their lust: some of this broode are called Cuttals, because they

they weare short cloakes: their company is dangerous, their liues detestable, and their ends miserable.

A milde Rogue.

THe Tame Rogue begets a Wilde-Rogue, and this is a spirit that cares not in what circle he rises, nor into the company of what Diuels he falles: In his swadling clouts is he marked to be a villaine, and in his breeding is instructed to be so: the mother of him (who was deliuered of her burden vnder a hedge) either trauelling with him at her back, or else leading him in her hand, and will rather endure to see his braines beaten out, than to haue him taken from her, to be put to an honest course of life. So enuious they are & so much do they scorn any profession but their own: they haue bene Rogues themselues, and disdaine that their children should be otherwise. These Wilde-Rogues (like wilde geese) keepe in flocks, and all the day loyter in the fields, if the weather be warme, and at Brick-kills, or else disperse themselues in cold weather, to rich mens doores, and at night haue their meetings in Barnes or other out places, where (twenty or more in a company) they engender male and female, euery one catching her whom he doth best fancy, the stronger more sturdy, keeping the weaker in subiection: their language is bawdy talke, damned oathes, and plots where to filch the next morning, which they performe betimes: rising as early as the Sunne and enioyning their punckes to looke out for cheates, to make their meeting at night the merrier.

A Prigger of Prancers.

A Prigger of Prancers is a horse stealer, for to Prig, signifies in the Canting language to steale, & Prancer signifies a horse. These walke (in frieze or lether Jerkins) with a wand in their hands, watching in what pasture any horses fit for their turne, and those within three or foure nights after are conueyd away at the least 60. miles from the place: if they mate the owners in their ground, they haue shifts to auoide his suspition by feining they haue lost their way to such a Towne.

These Hackney men that let out horses will request service at gentlemens houses, their skill being to keepe a Gelding well, and if they get entertainment, they stand to their word, for they keepe the Gelding so well, that his Maister shall neuer finde fault with any disease he hath, vnlesse it be that he had the dizzynes in his head, which made him reele out of his stable to be sold forty miles off at a fayre. These haue their female spyes that survey medowes and Closes, and long onely for horse flesh.

A Palliard.

A Palliard comes next into my minde, & he likewise is cal'd a Clapperdugeon: his vpper garment is an old cloake made of as many pieces, patch'd together, as there be villanies in him: this Palliard neuer goes without a Mort at his heeles whom he calles his wife. Being either in the streete of a citty or in a country village: they deuide themselues, and beg almes at seuerall dores, but whatsoeuer is gotten (be it bread, cheese, malt, or wooll) they sell it to some Rogue or other, and with the money are merry at a Bowsing Ken. A Palliard carryes about him (for feare of the worst) a Certificate (vnder a Ministers hand. with ye parishes name, which shal be sure to stand far enough) where this Mort & hee were married, when all is but forged: many Irishmen are of this lowsie Regiment, and some Welchmen: And the better either to draw pittie from men, as also to giue cullor to their lame wandring, with Spere-wort or Arsenick will they in one night poyson their leg be it neuer so sound, and raise a blister, which at their pleasure they can take off againe.

A Frater.

A Frater is a brother of as damnd a brode as the rest: his office is to trauell with a long wallet at his backe, and a blacke box at his girdle, wherein is a patient to beg for some Hospital or Spittle house: many of which patents (especially if they be in paper or parchment without the Great Seale) are counterfeit. And those that are not so, serue the Bearers of them but

but as instruments to play the knaues by: for though they get neuer so much, the poore creatures for whome they beg, receiue little of it: they lie soaking with a Dopye in a tippling house, whilst the spitte wretches are redy to starue for sustenance at home: let countrie women, returning from Markets if they be alone, and in a dangerous place, take heede of these Proctors, for they haue the Art to vnhorse them, and a conscience to send them packing without any penny in their purses.

A Quire-bird.

YOur Quire-birds are such as haue sung in such Cages as Newgate, or a Countrie Gaole, and hauing their belles giuen them to flye, they seeke presently to build their nests vnder some honest mans roofe, not with intent to bring him in anye profit, but onelye to put themselues into money or apparell (though it be by filtching) and then they take their flight.

An Abraham-man.

OF all the mad Rascalls (that are of this wing) the Abraham-man is the most fantastick: The fellow (quoth this olde Lady of the Lake vnto mee) that sat halfe naked (at table to day) from the Girdle vpward, is the best Abraham-man that euer came to my house, and the notablest villaine: he sweares he hath beene in Bedlam, and will talke frantickly of purpose: you see pinnes stucke in sundrie places of his naked flesh especially in his armes, which paine he gladly puts himselfe to (being indeede no torment at all, his skin is either so deade with some fowle disease, or so hardned with weather, onely to make you beleeue he is out of his wits) he calles himselfe by the name of poore Tom, and comming nere any body, cries out Poore Tom is a colde. Of these Abraham men, some bee exceeding merrie and doe nothing but sing Songs, fashioned out of their owne braines, some will dance, others will do nothing but either laugh or weepe others are dogged, and so sullen both in look and speech, that spying but a small company in a house, they boldly and bluntly enter, compelling the seruants through feare to giue them what they demaund, which

is commonly bacon or something that will yeeld ready money. The Vpright-man, and the Rogue are not terribler enemies to poultrie ware, then poore Tom is: neither does any man shift cleane linnen oftner than he does his wenches.

A Whipiacke.

THen there is another sort of nimble-fingred knaues, and they are called Whipiacks: who talke of nothing but fights at Sea, piracies, drownings, and shipwracks, trauelling both in the shape and names of Mariners, with a counterfeit Licence to beg from towne to towne, which licence they call a Gybe, and the Seales to it Iarkes. Their cullour of wandring from Shire to shire, (especially along the Sea coasts) is to harken after their Ship that was ouerthrown, or for the marchãdize stolne out of her, but the end of their land voyages is to rob Boothes at faires, which they call heauing of the Booth. These Whipsiacks will talke of the Indies, and of all countries that lye vnder heauen, but are indeed no more but freshwater Souldiers.

A counterfeit Cranke.

BAser in habit, and more vile in condition than the Whipiacke, is the Counterfeit crancke: who in all kinde of weather going halfe naked, staring wildly with his eyes, and appearing distracted by his lookes, complaining onely that hee is troubled with the falling sickneſſe: Albeit you giue them cloathes they wil wear none, but rather with those rags which they haue hanging about them should bee made loathsome by myre, or their naked bosome and Armes to appeare full of bruses, and to be bloudy with falling, thereby to kindle in men the greater compassion: to cause that foaming in their mouthes, (which is fearefull to behold by the standers by) they haue this trick, priuily to conuey a peece of white soape into one corner of their Iawes, which causeth the froth to come boyling forth. These Crankes haue likewise their meetings, and their wenches at commaund.

A Dummerer.

EQuall to the Cranke in dissembling is the Dummerar, for as the other takes vpon him to haue the falling sickneſſe, to this counterfeits Dumbnes, but let him bee whipped wel, and his tongue (which he doubles in his mouth and so makes a horred and strange noise instead of speech) will walk as fast as his handes doe, when he comes where any bootie is.

A Iacke-man and a Patrico.

AND because no common wealth can stand without some Learning in it. Therefore are there some in this Schools of Beggers, that practise writing and reading, and those are called Iackmen: yea, the Iack-man is so cunning sometimes that he can speake Latine: which learning of his lifts him vp to aduancement, for by that meanes he becomes Clark of their hall, and his office is to make counterfeit licences, which are called Gybes, to which he puts seales, and those are tearmed Iarkes. This Iack-man (for his knowledge) is haile fellowe well met with a Patrico, who amongſt Beggers is their priest, euerie hedge being his parish, euerie wandring Harlot and Rogue his parishioners, the seruice he saies, is onely the marrying of couples, which he does in a wood vnder a tree or in the open field, and the solemnitie of it is thus. The parties to be wedded, finde out a dead horse, or any other beast, and standing one on the one side, and the other on the other, the Patrico bids them to liue together till death them part, and so shaking handes, the wedding dinner is kept at the next Ale house they stumble into, where the musicke is nothing but knocking with kannes, and their dances none but drunken Brawles.

An Irish Toyle.

IN this forrest of Wildemen, the safest Toyles to pitch is the Irish Toyle which is a net so strongly & cunningly wouen together, that they who goe a hunting with it catch th

Common-wealth, and Conuycatch the ſubiects: for an Iriſh Toyle is a ſturdy vagabond, who ſcorning to take paines that may make him ſweate, ſtalkes onelye vp and downe the countrie with a wallet at his backe, in which he carries laces, pins, points, an ſuch like, and vnder collour of ſelling ſuch wares, both palleth too and fro quietly, & ſo commits many villanies as it were by warrant.

A Swigman.

LIke vnto him in conditions is a Swigman or pedler, carrying a packe behinde him inſtead of a wallet: their trades are all one, ſauing that the Swigman is ſomewhat better in behauiour though little differing in honeſtie. They both ſtand in feare of the Vpright-man & are forced oftentimes to pay him toale out of their packs.

A Kinchin Co.

THe laſt rank of theſe Runnagates is fild vp with Kinchin Coes; and they are little boyes, whoſe parents (hauing beene Beggers) are dead, or elſe ſuch as haue runne away from their Maiſters and inſtead of a trade to liue by, followe this kinde of life to be lowſie by. Theſe Kinchins, the firſt thing they doe is to learne how to Cant, and the onely thing they practiſe is to creepe in at windowes or Celler doores.

Thus haue I opened vnto you halfe the neſt of this generation of Vipers, now will I diſcouer the other halfe, wherein ſits a broode of Serpents, as dangerous and as loathſome as theſe: of which the young ones and the leaſt are called Kinchin-Morts, and thoſe are Girles of a yeare or two olde, which the Morts (their Mothers) carrie at their backs in their ſlates (which in ỳ Canting tongue are ſheetes) if they haue no childzen of their owne they will ſteale them from others, and by ſome meanes diſfigure them, that by their parents they ſhal neuer be knowen. The ſecond bird of this feather is a Del, and that is a yong wench ripe for the act of Generation, but as yet not ſpoyled of her maiden-head: theſe Dels are reſerued as diſh-

A Kinchin Mort.

for the Vpright-me, for none but they muſt haue ỳ firſt taſt

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of them, & after the Vpright-men haue deflowred them, (which commonly is when they are very yong) then are they free for any of the brotherhood, and are called Dells no more, but Dopers. Of these Dells some are termed Wilde dells, and those are such as are born and begotten vnder a hedge: the other are yong wenches that either by death of parents, the villanie of Executors, or the cruelties of maisters and mistresses fall into this infamous and damnable course of life. When they haue gotten the title of Dopies, then are they common for any, and walke for the most part with their betters (who are a degree aboue them) called Morts, but whensoeuer an Vpright-man is in presence, the Doxie is onely at his commaund: These Doxies will for good victuals or a small piece of money, prostitute their bodies to seruingmen if they can get into any conuenient corner about their maisters houses, & to ploughmen in barnes, haylofts or stables: they are common pick-pockets, familiars (with the baser sorts of cut-purses, and oftentimes secret murtherers of these infants which are begotten of their bodies. These Dopyes haue one speciall badge to be knowne by, for most of them goe working of laces, and shirt strings, or such like stuffe, onely to giue colour to their idle wandring. A Dopye. A walking Mort.

Of Morts there be two kindes, that is to say, A walking Mort and an Autem Mort: the Walking mort is of more antiquitie than a Dopie, & therefore of more knauerie: they both are vnmarried, but the Doxy professes herselfe to be a maide, (if it come to examination) and the Walking mort, saies she is a widow, whose husband dyed either in the Portugal voyage, was slaine in Ireland, or the Low countries, or come to his end by some other misfortune, leauing her so many smal infants on her hand in debt: whom not being able by her honest labour to maintain, she is compelled to beg. These Walking mores trauell from Country to Country, making laces (vpon staues) & small purses, and now and then white ballance for beds. Subtill queanes, they are hard-harted, light fingerd, cuning in dissembling, and dangerous to be met if any Ruffer or Rogue be in their company. They feare neither God nor good lawes but onely are kept in aw by the Vpright-men, who often times spoyle them of all they haue, which to preuent, the Walking Morts vse this policy, they leaue their money (sometime fiue

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thillings, ſometimes ten ſhillings) in ſeuerall ſhires, with ſome honeſt farmers wife or others whom they know they may truſt, and when they trauell that way againe, at halfe yeares end, or a quarters, fetch it to ſerue their turnes: but dare neuer goe in good clothes, leaſt the Vpright-men either ſtrip them into rags, or elſe ſtarke naked, as they vſe to doe.

An antem Mort

An autem Mort, is a woman married, (for Autem in the Beggers language is a Church: theſe Morts ſeldome keepe vñ their husbands, but are from them ſometimes a moneth or two, yet neuer walke they without a man in their company, and boyes and girles at their heeles of ten or twelue yeares old whome they imploy at windowes of houſes in the night time or earely in the mornings, to pilfer away any thing that is worth ỹ carying away, (which in their tung) they call Nilling of the Ken. Theſe autem Morts walke with wallets on their ſhoulders, and Slates (or ſheetes) at their backes, in which they vſe to lye. Their husbands commonly are Ruffers, Vpright-men, or Wilde Rogues, & their companions of the ſame breede.

A bawdy basket.

There is another Parrot, (in this Bird-cage) whoſe feathers are more ſlicke, and tunge more ſmoth than the reſt, and ſhe is called A bawdy basket: Theſe Bawdy baskets are women that walke with baskets or capcaſes on their armes wherein they haue laces, pinnes, needles, white inckle, tape, round white ſilke girdles, & ſuch like: theſe will buy Conny Skins, & in ỹ mean time ſteale linnen or pewter: they are faire ſpoken, and will ſeldome ſweare whilſt they are ſelling their wares, but lye with any man that hath a minde to their commodities. The Vpright-men and theſe hold ſuch league together, that whatſoeuer they haue is common to them both, & oftentimes will they with money relieue one another.

Demãders of Glimer.

The ſelfe ſame Truce is taken betweene the Vpright-men and ỹ demaunders of Glymmer, that is to ſay, thoſe who trauell vp & downe with licences to begge, becauſe their houſes haue beene conſumed with fire, for Glymmer (in canting) ſignifies fire. Theſe Glymmering Morts are ſo tender harted, ỹ they ſhed teares if they make but mention of their loſſes, & tel a lamentable ſtorie how ỹ fire deſtroyed their barnes, ſtables, &c. all that they ſpeake being meere lyes: they likewiſe carrie wallets at their backes, and are onely attended vpon and defe-

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ded by the Vpright-men, who neuer walke along with them through any townes, but keepe aloofe.

And these (quoth the Hostesse of the Beggers) are all or the cheefest (both Hee-Diuels, and She-diuels) that dance in this large circle. I haue brought you acquainted with their names, their natures, their tradings, and their traffick: if you haue a desire to know more of them, you shall find whole congregations of them at Saint Quintens, the Three-cranes in the Vintry, Saint Tybs, and at Knapsburie which foure places are foure seuerall barnes within one mile cõpasse neere London, being but Nick-names giuen to them by the Vpright-men: In those Innes do they lodge euery night; In those doe Vpright-men lie with Morts, and turne Dels in Doxyes (that is to say, rauish young wenches) whilst the Rogue is glad to stand at reuersion and to take the others leauings. In Middlesex likewise stand foure other Harbours for them, namely, Draw the pudding out of the fire, (which is in the parish of Harrow on the Hill) The crosse Keyes, (which is in Cranford parish,) Saint Iulians, (which is in Thistleworth parish) And the house of Pirie in Northall Parish. The Kings barne neere Darford, and Ketbrooke neere Blackheath, are likewise houses of good receit for them: In all Shires haue they such Innes as these; and in all of them and these recited, shall you find sometimes 40. Vpright-men together, ingẽdring beggers with their Morts. No sinne but is here committed without shame, Adultery is common amongst them, Incest but laughed at, Sodomy made a iest: At these Hauens doe they cast anchor boldly, because none are by to barre their entrance; yea those that are owners of these Barnes and Backhouses, dare not but giue welcome to these Vnruly Guests; for if they should not, they would at one time or other set fire of their houses, or by bloudy & treacherous practises take away their liues. For this cause sir, (quoth she) am I glad to looke smilingly vpon them, & to play the Hostesse because my abiding stands so farre from company; yet I protest (quoth she) I hate the sight of them, as knowing them to be hell-hounds, and haue made discouerie of their diuelish conditions, because you may teach others how to auoide them: and howsoeuer you may be drawne peraduenture to publish these abuses to the world (said she) yet I pray conceale my name, the publishing of which may cost me my life.

By this time, the fumes of Ale which had diſtempered her braines, and let her tongue a going were diſperſed; ſo that both her lookes and ſpeech ſhewing that ſhe did not now diſſemble, but vttered theſe things vnfainedly, I gaue her many thankes for her Diſcouery, counſelled her to change her diſcomfortable Lodging, and to dwell in a place more inhabited, (which ſhe promiſed to doe) and away I went. A thouſand cogitations kept me company as I trauelled alone by my ſelfe: for ry I was to heare that in thoſe places where Innocence and Simplicity ſhould be borne, ſo much, and ſuch vgly Villany ſhould be nouriſhed, yet was I glad that I came to the knowledge of their euils, becauſe the dreſſing of ſuch wounds in a common wealth, is the curing of them.

Looking therefore with more pearcing eies into the Country-life, I began to hate it worſe then (before) I loued it, I fell to diſpraiſe it farther than euer I did commend it. For I found it ful of care, and full of craft; full of labour, and yet full of penurie; I ſaw the poore husbandman made a ſlaue to the rich farmour; the farmour racked by his landlord: I ſaw that couetouſneſſe made deere yeares when ſhe had fulleſt barnes; and to curſe plentie for being liberal of her bleſſings. I had heard of no ſinne in the Cittie, but I met it in the village; nor any Vice in the tradeſman, which was not in the ploughman. All places therefore being haunted with euill Spirits, I forſooke the fields and the Mountaines, and tooke my iourney back againe to the city, whoſe cuſtomes (both good and bad) I deſired to be acquainted with. It was my fortune to trauell ſo late, that the Moone had climed vp to the very top of Midnight, before I had entrance into the gates of the Cittie, which made me make the more haſt to my lodging. But in my paſſage, I firſt heard (in ſome good diſtance before me) the ſound of a bell, and the of a mans voice, both whoſe tunes ſeemed at that dead houre of the night verie doleful. On I hallened to know what noyſe it ſhould be, and in the end found it to be the Belman of London. The ſound of his Voice at the firſt put me in mind of the day of Iudgement; Men (me thought) ſtarting out of their ſlepes, at the ringing of his bell, as then they are to riſe from their graues at the call of a trumpet: But when I approched neare vnto him, and beheld a man with a lanthorne and candle in his hand, a long ſtaffe on

his

his necke, and a dog at his taile. I supposed verily, because the Moone shone somewhat dimly, that the man in the Moone had lept downe from heauen, (for I hall) had left his bush of thornes behind him. But these imaginations vanishing, as fast as they were begotten, I began to talke to my Bel-man, and to aske him, why with such a Jangling, and balting, and beating at Mens doores, he went about to waken either poore men that weare ouer-wearied with labour, or sick men that had most needs of rest? hee made answere vnto mee, that the Ringing of his Bell, was not (like an Allarum in a towne of Garrison,) to fright the inhabitants, but rather it was musick to charme them faster with sleepe: the Beating at their doores assured those within, that no theeues were entred, nor that false seruants had wilfully or negligently suffered the doores to stand open, to haue their masters robd; & that his crying out so loud, was but like the shrill Good morrow of a Cock, to put men (that had wealth enough) in minde of the time how it slideth away, and to bid those that were full of businesse to bee watchfull for their due houres when they were to rise. He cald himselfe therefore the Centinell of the Citie, the watchman for euerie ward, the honest Spy that discouered the prentizes of the night, and that as a lanthorne in the poope of a Ship, was a guid or comfort to sea-men in most pitchy darknesse, so was his walking vp and downe in the night time, a preuention to the City oftentimes of much and many dangerous fires. I liked well that thus he praised himselfe, because in those praises lay the commendation of an honourable, ciuill, and politick gouernment. And so farre well I with him that in the end he brought me acquainted with his office, aswell as hee knew it himselfe, and discouered vnto me the properties of his walkes, as how farre his bounds reached, what mad hobgoblings hee oftentimes encountred with, what mischiefes he now & then preuented, what knauaries he was now and then an eye witnesse to, and to what secret villanies (brought to bed in darknesse) he was compeld to be (though not the midwife) yet a gossip, present at the labour and deliuerie. Of all which I hauing a longing desire to get the true pictures, and perswading him that he was bound by his place, by his conscience, and by the lawes of common humanity to lay open such plots as were

so dangerous to the common wealth whereof he was a member, he yeelded at the length to discouer all that he knew, and for that purpose not only caried me home to his lodging where he gaue me the notes and names of sundry abuses begotten in the dead of night: but also went vp and downe the Citty with me all the next day, shewing me the very doores & signes at which they dwelt, and the very faces of those that were the Diuels Factors in those lowe country commodities of hell: I learnt much by the Bell-mans intelligence, but more afterwards by my owne obseruation and experience; what merchandize I stored my selfe with by both Voiages, here doe I vnlade, and what profit so euer arises by the trafficke of them, shall if you please be wholy yours. And for that the Lading was of sundry commodities, I will deliuer them forth in their seuerall parcels, as I receiued them.

Of cheating Lawe.

ALL Vices maske themselues with the vizards of Vertue: they borrowe their names, the better and more currantly to passe without suspition: for murder will be called Manhood, Drunkennesse is now held to be Physick, Impudence is Audacitie, Riot, good fellowship &c. So are these Villaines (whose faces I meane to discouer) painted ouer with fresh orient colours, because their lookes may be more pleasing, and lesse suspected to haue craft vnderneath them. And for that purpose haue their Knaueries gotten the names of Arts or Lawes, as the Act of such a thing or such a lawe, not that they are institutions set downe by lawe for the good of men, or of a common-wealth; but as the Law is grounded vppon reason, and hath Maximes of Iustice, vpon which she buildeth all her Policies whereby she gouerns kingdomes: So these new-found Lawes of the Diuels inuention, are grounded vpon Mischiefe, and are nothing else but certaine Acts and Rules, drawne into heads (in an assembly of damned Wretches) for the vtter vndoing of Men, and confusion of a Weale-publick.

Of all which Lawes, the Highest in place, and the Highest in perdition is the Cheating Law, or the Art of winning mony by false dyce: Those that practise this Studie call themselues Cheaters,

ters, the dice Cheaters, and the money which they purchase Cheates: borrowing the tearme from our common Lawyers, with whom all such casuals as fall to the Lord at the holding of his Leetes, as Waifes, Strayes, & such like, are said to be Escheated to the Lords vse, and are called Cheates. This sort of gamesters, were at first a few in number, (the Art being odious) they were poore: (as being hated and driuen from all good mens company. (But now, there are so many professed Cheaters and so many that giue countenance to their occupation, that they might make an armie sufficient to giue the Turke a battaile: now are they not hungry threadbare knaues, but gallants that ruffle in silkes, & are whorried through the streates in Coaches, their purses being full of crownes, and their fingers being held vp able to command the prowdest Curtizan. Yea to such a rankenes hath custome brought this Vice, and to such a boldnes, that in the most noble assemblies, at the best Ordinaries where your onely Gallants spend afternoones, & in your most ciuill meetings of Merchants, your welthiest Cittizens, if they fall to play with dyce for any round summes of money, it is now growne to a fashion to haue some one or other to take vp the Cheaters weapons, and (without all respect of honesty, friendship, or societie) to beate all commers.

A cheater plaies his Maisters prize at 14. seuerall weapons, and those weapons are these.

The names of false Dice.

A Bale of bard sinck Dewces.
A Bale of Flat sincke Dewces.
A Bale of Flat sice Aces.
A Bale of bard sice Aces.
A Bale of bard Cater-Treas.
A bale of Flat Cater-Treas.
A Bale of Fullams.
A Bale of light Graniers.
A Bale of Langrets, contrary to the vantage.
A Bale of Gordes, with as many High men as low men for passage.
A Bale of Demies.
A Bale of Long Dyce for euen and od.

A Bale of Briſtles.
A Bale of Direct contraries.

Theſe are the 14 diuelliſh hookes, by which the Cheater angles for other mens money; hee cares not in what riuer, hee makes no conſcience with what baite, ſo hee may haue good draughts to maintaine himſelfe in riots, and his whore in rich apparell, thats the white hee ſhootes at. Neither doth he let all theſe arrowes flie at one marke, nor in all weathers. But ſome he ſhootes in one game, ſome in another, and as he finds what fooles are in his company, ſo does he beſtow his bolts. To ſet downe all the Legierdemaine of this handy-craft, would peraduenture inſtruct ſome ill minded perſons in that villanie, which is publiſhed onely to haue others ſhun it: I will therefore ſhew you a few of their iugling tricks, (that are Graduates in the Art) and by the ſhape of them, iudge the reſt, for all are alike.

A Langret is a Die, which ſimple men haue ſeldome heard of, and happily neuer ſeene (but to their coſt) It is (to the eye of him that is but a Nouice) a good and ſquare die, yet is it cut longer vpon the Cater and Trea, then vpon any other point, and is for that cauſe called a Langret: theſe Langrets are alſo called Bard Cater Treas, becauſe in the running the longer end will commonly (of his owne way) draw downewards, & turne either Sice, Sink, Dewce or Ace vpwards on the board; the principall vſe of them is at Nouum. For ſo long as a paire of Bard Cater Treas, be walking, ſo long can you caſt neither 5, nor 9, vnles it be by great chance, that the roughnes of the table, or ſome other ſtoppe force them to ſtay, and to runne againſt their kind; for without Cater Trea, 5 or 9 you know can neuer come.

Here ſome may imagine, that by this meanes hee that hath the firſt Dice in his hand, may ſtrip all that play at the table of their money; but this muſt be their helpe. An odde die called a Flat Cater Trea, (and no other number) is to be readie at hand, for granting the Trea and Cater to be alwaies vpon ye one die, then is there no chance vpon the other die but may ſerue to make 5, or 9, and ſo caſt forth and loſe all.

The cheater therefore marketh well the Flat, and bendeth a great part of his ſtudie to learn when he is abroad, for ſo long as that is ſtirring, he will neuer caſt at much: the thift which

a cheater is driuen to, in conueying the Flat in and out, is a notable cunning, and in their trade is cald Foysting: which is nothing else but a sleight to carry Dice easily in the hand so often as the Foister listeth, so that when either he or his partner calleth the Dice, the Flat comes not abroad till he hath made a Great hand, otherwise the Flat is still sure to be One, vnlesse ỳ Cheater of purpose suffers the silly Nouices, with whom he playes, to cast in a hand or two to giue them courage and to line in hope of winning.

The damnable Oaths and Quarrels that waite at the table of Gamesters, are occasion that many men forbeare to venture mony in those sports, who otherwise would play, the Cheater therfore (being a cunning obseruer of all fashions) will seldome sweare (if he haue gotten a Gull into his company, whom he is loath to anger for feare he lose him) and as seldome swagger, but will rather put vp an open wrong, then by a foolish braule to breake off ỳ company and so hinder himselfe and his consort of purchase: But if he sweare you would take him for a puritan, for his oaths are, Of Honestie, Of Troth, by Saint Martin, &c. And take this note, that when he sweares affirmatiuely, he meanes always the contrary. As for example, if I say vnto you when the Dice come to your hands, Of Honestie cast at all, my meaning is, you shall cast at the table, or else at very little: or if when one being stript out of all his money, offer to pawne a Ring or a Iewell, and I sweare by Saint Martin I thinke it is fine gold, then do I meane that it is pure copper, and so of the rest: He that is drawne in to venture his money, is (amongst this curst brotherhood of Cheaters) tearmed a Cosen, and is handled so kindly, as if he were a cosen indeede: if he once set in a foot, and that they fall to Hunt him, then all the craft is to make the Cony sweate, that is to say, so wisely to handle him, that he may haue a desire more and more to play and to keepe company; yet so warily to increase this appetite in him that he Smoake not the Cheater, which is, that he smell not what knauery is bent against him, and so slip the coller like a Hound, and shake off the company for euer.

At the taking vp of a Cosen, the first Veny that a Cheater giues him, is to learne before he play what store of Bit he hath in his Bay, that is, what mony he hath in his purse, and whether

ther it be in great Cogges or small, that is, in gold or siluer, and at what game he will soonest stoope, for that being knowne, his humor is fed, and he is choked with the meat he loues best. For some that will not play a groat at Nouum, will loose a hundred pound at Hazard, and he that will not loose a shilling at Dice, will play away his patrimony at Cardes: for which cause the Cheater furnisheth himselfe for all votages, but specially prouides for fine Cheates, and to atchieue which with more ease, he acquaints himselfe with Dice makers, that worke in corners, (Mariets they are that are Factors to the diuell, and for money will exchange their soules in a bayle of Dice.) These Dice makers, arme the Cheater with the foresaid 14. weapons and then he is a Cheater compleat.

One notable policy is (as a Rule) set downe in this Schoole of cheating, & that is, A Cheater neuer discouereth the secrets of his Art to any: vnlesse it be to such a one who being left by his parents, rich in money and possessions, hath to the musicke of square rating bones danced so long, that hee hath danced himselfe into the company of beggers, and is brought to such want and miserie, that hee would leane no stone vnturned to find a pennie vnder it. Such a wretch is instructed in those Villanies, by which he himselfe hath beene wrought to infamy: the poison & once he swallowed doth hee now cast vp to kil others with it. Neither doth the Cheater bestow this learning vpon his yong Scholler, out of a commiseration of his low estate, but onely to make ble of him, euen in the height of his extremitie. His Iorny man therefore doth he make him, and because the Cheater is happily a man so noted in all companies, that few or none will venture money where he playes, the Nouice is taught to play his scholiers prize, whilst the other stands by and lokes on, yet so, that the Cheater hath the sweetnes of the gaines. The Nouices imployments then are amongst his rich Kinred, Countrimen, or acquaintance to find out Cosens; whom hee must by one trick or other get to a Tauerne, or inuite them to a supper, at the end of which, the Cheater layes about him to draw them to play, & secretly lends his Pupill money to maintaine game, both their wits working how to cheate those that are in the company. We haue beene too long at Dice, let vs now fall to Cardes.

Of

Of Barnards Law.

DIce and Cardes are Twins, idlenesse was the father of them, Desire of gaines the mother, Honest Recreation saies shee was their Nursse, and ought to haue the bringing of them vp, but howsoeuer, the Deuil makes them now his adopted Children: and no wonder, for they are like in conditions, as being both (like him) full of deceipt: if there be cousnage in tripping of a die, there is ẏ like craft in shufling & sorting of a paire of cardes: insomuch, that what game soeuer is on foote, Hee that is marked out to be the looser, (by the Synodicall assembly and Fathers of the Barnards Law, is sure neuer to depart a winner.

To speak of all the sleights vsed by Card-players, in al sorts of Games, would but wearie you that are to reade, and bee but a thankles and vnpleasing labour for me to set them down. Omitting therefore the deceipts practised, (euen in the faireest and most ciuill companies) at Primero, Sannt, Maw, Tromp, and such like games, I will onely lay open the villanies of a base kinde of people, that trauell vp and down the whole land, sometimes in the habit of Gentlemen, sometimes of Seruingmen, sometimes of Grasiers, Farmers and plaine fellowes, maintaining themselues onely by the cozenage they vse in Card-playing: which kinde of play of theirs, they call The Barnards Law.

To act which knauish Comedy of Wily-beguily, 5. Persons are required: and those are,

1 The Taker.
2 The Cozen.
3 The Verser.
4 The Barnard.
5 The Rutter.

These are the players, now shall you heare their parts.

1 The Taker, is he that by some fine inuention fetcheth in the man whome they desire to draw into Gaming.

2 The Cozen is the partie that is Taken.

3 The Verser, is a fellow more Graue in speech and habit & seemes

seemes to be a landed man: his part is to second what the Taker begins, and to giue countenance to the act.

4 The Barnard is the chiefe player, for he counterfeits many parts in one, and is now a drunken man, anon in another humour, and shifts himselfe into so many shapes, only to blind, the Cozen, and to leeue him with more delight, the more easily to beguile him.

5 The Rutter is as arrant a knaue as the rest, his part is discharged when he hath begun a fray with his owne shadowe, whilst the rest that haue made a younger Brother of the poore Cozen, steale out of sight. Now to the Countrie it selfe. The prologue of which if it goe off well, there is good hope all shall end well: All the cunning thereof is how to begin, and to doe that, the Taker studies his part at his fingers ends. The Stage on which he plaies the prologue is either in Fleetestreet, the Strand, or in Paules, and most commonly in the afternoone, when Countrie Clyents are at most leysure to walke in those places, or for dispatching of their businesse, trauell from Lawyer to Lawyer, through Chancery lane, Holborn, and such like places.

In this heate of running to and fro, if a plaine fellowe well and cleanely apparelled, either in home-spunne russet or freeze (as the season requires) with a side pouch at his girdle, happen to appeare in his rusticall likenesse. There is a Cozen saies one. At which word out flyes the Taker, and thus giues the onset vpon my olde Penny-father. Sir, God saue you, you are welcome to London, how doe all our good friends in the countrie? I hope they be well: the Russetting amazed at these salutations of a stranger, replyes, Sir, all our friends in ỹ countrie are in health, but pra'y pardō me, I know you not beleeue it: No (answers the Taker) are you not a Lancashire man, or of such a countrie? if he say yes, then the Fish nibbles and he giues him more line to play with: if he say no, then the Taker hath about with another weapon, and sweares soberly, In good sooth sir I know your face, and am sure we haue been merie together, I pray (if I may beg it without offence) bestow your name vppon me, and your dwelling place. The innocent man, suspecting no poyson in this gilded cup, tels him presently his name and abiding, by what gentleman he dwels, &c. which being

being done, the Taker (for thus interrupting him in his way, and for the wrong in mistaking him for another) offers a quart of wine: if the Cozen be such an Asse to goe into a Tauerne, then he is sure to be vnckled, but if he smack my Taker, & smel Gun-powder traines, yet wil not be blown vp, they part fairely, and then to the Verser goes the Taker, discouering what he hath done, & deliuers the mans name, countrie, & dwelling to the Verser, who boldly stepping to him, or crossing the way to meet him ful in the face, takes acquaintance presently of him, salutes him by his name, inquires how such and such Gentlemen doe, that dwell in the same towne by him, and albeit, the honest Hob-naile-wearer, can by no meanes be brought to remember this new friend yet will he nill hee, to the tauerne he sweares to haue him, and to bestow vppon him the best wine in London.

Diuers other pullies (if these two faile) haue they to draw simple men into their company, as by dropping a shilling in the open way, which being taken vp in the Countrie-mans sight, must be spent in wine, because hee shall haue his halfe part, or by intreating him to step into a tauerne till the Verser haue writ a word or two into the Countrie, which hee must carrie to his friends, offering the Cozen a shilling for his paines. But the conclusion of all is, that if they thinke his bag is well lyned with siluer, to the Tauerne by one subtill hooke or other, they wil pull him, where being set with the Verser, and the Taker, and wine called for: In comes the Barnard Rumbling into the Roome, as it were by chance, seeming to be halfe drunke: and crying the company mercie for being so bould with them, they modestly answere no hurt is done, and aske him if he will drinke with them, he takes their offer, and sweares to pay for a pinte of Wine, which they by no meanes will suffer. But the Barnard telling them hee has money for what hee calles, and vsing phrases fit for a drunken man, out-flies some twentie or fortie Angels on ẏ board, which hee puts vp presently again, and saies, seeing they will not suffer him to pay for a pint, he wil play at cards for it with any one of them at a new game which he learnt but now, with the losse onelye of a pot of Ale. The rest of his cõsort (making as though what they doe is to bee

rid of him, are content to play for a pynte and no more. The Taker or the Verser is the man must play with him, ẏ Cards are fetcht, Mumchance or Decoy is the game: the first wager is wine, the second two pence in money, from two pence they rise to a shilling, from that to a pound, and hauing drawn some good store of gold from the Barnard, the Cozen (allured with the sweetnes of gaine, and hope of winning, seeing the other halfe drunke, as he imagines) is offered to be halfe in whatsoeuer is won, he stoops to this lure, but the bush is so wel beaten by these subtle fowlers, that in the end, all the birds are flowne out of the Cozens hand, and he hath not one penny left him in his purse: if then he smell the knauery, and fall to calling for a Constable, swearing the drunken rascall hath cozened him, (for the Barnard you must know carries away all the money) then enters the Rutter, who picking some idle quarell either in the roome, or at the street dore, the coney of ẏ cheators take thir flight in the meane time, and that (with the sharing of the purchase in another Tauerne) is the Epilogue to their comedie, but the first Entrance to the poore countrymans Tragedy.

These Comedians Strowte likewise vp and down the country in the habites of Seruingmen, and silly fellowes, haunting Brainford, Kingston, Croydon, Rumford, & such other places neerest London vppon the market dayes onely, & at the end of market, when Butchers, Grasiers & others whom they thinke to be stored with money are on their way home, then will one of this crew ouertake them in ryding, and light at some towne of purpose to mend his girt, to remooue a shoe of his horse, or vpon any other excuse, intreating the company (with whom he is newly acquainted) to stay and drinke a pot with him in the meane time. And in these country voyages doe they Saile by other points of the compasse, ẏ windes are not so boistrous, nor the Seas so rough as the former, for here is there neither one ẏ playes the drunkard nor any that swaggers, but these diuelish Pasquers, passe vnder these names at such meetings: viz.

1 The party that fetcheth in the Gull, (whose feathers they meane to pluck) is not called the Taker, but the Setter. 2. He that seconds him, keepes his first Tytle & is called the Verser. 3. He that loseth his money, not a Cozen but a Cony. 4. He ẏ

comes

comes in & before counterfetted the dronken Barnard is now sober and called the Barnacle.

Sometimes likewise this Card-cheating; goes not vnder ẏ name of Barnards lawe, but is called Batt-fowling, and thē ẏ Setter is ẏ Beater, the foole that is caught in the net, the bird: the Tauerne to which they repaire to worke the Feate is the Bush: the wine the Strap, and the cardes the Limetwitgs.

Thus haue I discouered a strange Art, by which Conyes are caught after a new manner of hunting, and Cozens found out that were neuer of the kindred before. Thus the honest farmer simply going about his businesse, is stripped of that mony, which should further his law-suites, and so perhaps is ouerthrowne: Thus the Seruingman being sent with his Lords treasure, is cheated and turned out of seruice. Thus the prentice hauing his Maisters wealth in his hand, is robd (by tame theeues) and in the end driuen to run away or to dye in prison. Thus the Gentleman comming new to his land is made a begger. Thus the Marchant is vndone. Thus all men are abused. Thus the common wealth is dishonored by feeding such vipers in her wombe, that cannot liue but by gnawing out of her bowels

Vincents Lawe.

THe Dycing cheater, & the cozening Card-player, walke in the habites of Gentlemen, and cary the faces of honest men, So likewise doe those that are Students in the Vincents Lawe: whose Inne is a Bowling Alley, whose bookes are bowles, and whose law cases are lurches and rubbers. The pastime of bowles, is now grown to a common exercise, or rather a trade, of which some of all companies are free, ẏ sport is not so common as the cozēnage vsed in it, which to haue it liue with credit and in a good name, is called the Vincents lawe.

In this Law they which play booty are the Banckers.
He that Betteth is the Gripe.
He that is cozened is the Vincent.
The Gaines gotten is called Termage.

The Bankers are commonly men apparelled like honest and

substantiall Citizens, who come into the Bowling Alleys to a rubbers or so, as though it were rather for sport, then for any gaines, protesting they care not whether they winne or loose: which carelesnes of theirs is but a shadow to their pretended knauery: whilst they are crying Rub, rub, Rub, a great one. In come the spectators dropping one by one, and stand leaning ouer a Raile to beholde them; of which oftentimes some simple men that neuer saw common Bowling Alley before, may perhaps be of the number, and is brought in of purpose by one of their owne Brotherhoode to be rid of his mony, if such a yong bird happen amongst them, and doe once but chirp, that is to say either take or offer any lay, they all harken to his note, especially if he sing shrilly, that is to say be deepe: if there be good store of Lookers on, the are there certaine olde soakers, whose office is to doe nothing but listen for bets, either euen or od, & these are called Gripes; which Gripes will refuse no Lay, if the ods may grow to their aduantage, for the Gripes & the Bankers are sworn brothers to the diuel (their father in law) and ye bowles haue such vertue in them that their bialles will direct-ly run, as the Gripes haue placed their Bets. The Bankers (albeit they so play as if they minded nothing but their owne game) yet haue still an eare how the layes are made, & according to that leuell doe they throw their bowles, so that be sure the bowlers play booty: for suppose 7 be vp for the game, and that the one side hath 3. the other none, then the Vincent (who is the Nouice that standeth by, and is not acquainted with the tallents of these Gripes, nor seeles not when they draw bloud of him, no nor doth not so much as carry an euill thought of the bowlers that they should play booty, looking so grauely and so like to honest men) the poore colt, seeing three to none, begins to grow lusty, and to offer ods on that side which is fairest for the game, what ods sayes the Gripe? 3 to one cries the Vincent: no sayes the Gripe it is more, and with that the Bankers are come to foure for none. then the Vincent offers to lay foure to one: I take six to one sayes the Gripe, I lay it cryes the Vincent, and so they make a bet of six crownes, shillings, or pence, as the Vincent is of ability to lay: and thus will sundry take their ods of him, On then goe the Bankers with the game and win another cast which is fiue for none: at

this

this fooles fortune of his, the Vincent grins for ioy, scratches his elbow, and is so proud, that no ground about the Ally can hold him thinking verily both by the ods and goodnesse of the play, it is impossible for his side to loose, and therefore (being wise foole-hardy) he takes and layes bets freely: all eyes then greedily marking the euent of this scorne; At the length on a suddain, the Sunne begins to shine on ỹ other side that were none, and they win perhaps so long till they come to three, or fiue, and still as their luck alters, diuersitie of bets are laide; till at last they are fiue for fiue: and then the Gripe comes vpon the Vincent, and offers him ods, which if the Vincent fasten vpon, he looseth all, for vpon what side soeuer the Gripe layes, that side euer wins, how great soeuer the ods bee at first in the contrarie part, so that the cosenage growes in playing bootie. This sower banquet to the Vincent is seasoned with sweet meates to the Bankers and the Gripes, who at night meet in some Tauern, and share the money gotten by this base meanes, which money they call Termage.

Now to shadow the villany the more, the Banker that wins and is a fore-hand with the game, will lay frankly that he shall winne, and will bet hard, and lay great ods, but with whome: either with thē who play with him that are as craftye knaues as himselfe, or else with the Gripe, and this makes the Vincent to stoope to the blow the sooner. Besides, if any honest men that hold themselues skilful in bowling, offer to play any set match against these common bowlers, if these Bākers feare to haue the worst, and suspect the others play to be better than theirs, then haue they a tricke (in watring of the alley,) to giue such a moisture to the banck, that he who offers to strike a bowle with a shore, shall neuer hit it whilst he liues, because the moysture of the banke hinders the proportion of his Ayming. Many other practises there are in bowling, tending to cosenage, but the greatest and grosest is Booty: in which the deceipt is so open and palpable, that I haue seen men stone-blind offer to lay bets frankly, although they could see a bowle no more then a post, onely by hearing who plaide, and how the olde Gripes had made their layes.

Thus, sports that were inuented for honest recreation, are by the wicked abusing of them, turned to mens confusion: And

not

not onely in these games before rehearsed, but also in those that are both more laudable, and more lawfull. For in the Tennis-court cheating hath a hand, yea and in shooting, which is the noblest exercise of our English Nation, arrowes doe now and then flie with false feathers. Since then that all kindes of Gaming serues but as gulphes to deuoure the substances of men, and to swallow them vp in beggerie, my counsell is vtterly either to refraine such pastimes, or if men are of such spirits that they must needes venture their money, then to be verie prouident how they play, and to be choise of their company. Now let vs turne ouer the volumes of other Lawes, enacted in the Parliament of these Deuils.

The Black Art.

HAuing waded thus farre in these puddles of damn'd impiety, it shall not be amisse to goe on, and search euen to the bottome and farthest shoare of them: to effect which the sooner, wee must now deale in the Blacke Arte. It is not that Blacke Art, by which men coniure vp spirits, and raise Diuels in Circles, to tell where money is hid, or whether goods that are stolne are conueied; But this Blacke art, is to fetch away money where it lyes, and to raise vp a fiend in a rich Mercers or Goldsmithes shop at midnight without the ghastly of a staring Coniurer. This Black Art workes in darkenes as well as the other: it deales with the Deuill as the other doth, and is as vnlawfull as the other is: if you will needes (in a word) know the mysticall meaning of this blacke Arte, it is called in English Picking of Locks, & this Engine of mischiefe turnes vpon these fiue wheeles. viz.

The Picklocke is called a Charme.
He that watcheth if any bodie come is the Stand.
The tooles that doe the busines are called Wresters.
Picking of the locke is called Farfing.
The gaines gotten is Pelfery.

Now albeit that two persons only are imployed in this vndermining of a doore, viz the Charme & the Stand, yet the burglarie is committed by other handes, which are in a readinesse to receiue the goods (when the house is entred) and to con-

uey

uey them in parcels away. The Charme (who is the master of this black Art, goes like a coniurer, with a number of keyes & wrests like so many Pentacles) about him, which he cals pick-locks, and for euery sundry fashion they haue a sundry terme, but being ignorant of their words of Art, I omit them; onely assuring you thus much, that the Charme hath such cunning & such dexteritie in opening a locke (and that without any great noise) that no ward whatsoeuer (be it neuer so doubled) but flies back at his Jugling with it. Some haue their instruments from Italy made of steele, some are made heere in England by Smiths that are partners and partakers in their villanous occupations. But howsoeuer, the trade of Lockpicking may well be called the Black-Art, for none study it, but those that for other mens goods haue sold their very soules to the Diuell.

The Curbing Law.

The Black Art and the Curbing Law, are grounded both vpon the selfe same positions: for the Black Art teaches how to breake open a lock, the Curbing Law how to hooke goodes out of a windowe; they both are workers in Iron, both are begotten in Idlenes, both liue by villanie, and both die with infamy. A smith is the maker and fetter vp of these two trades, and the hangman is the vtter vndoer of them. This Curbing Law spreads it selfe into foure maine branches:

He that hookes is cald the Curber.
He that playes the spy, is the Warpe.
The Hooke is the Curbe.
The goods are called Snappings.
The Gin to open the window is a Tricker.

The office of the Curber is for the most parte betimes in the mornings (at the discharging of a watch) to be vp more earely than a noise of shrugging stolers; and the husbandry which hee followes, is in the day time to watch what shops or windowes stand fittest for his trade, which if he find easily to be opened, then the cony is in the pursute without much feeting. But if he must take paines for his liuing, out come his Trickers, and then (as if he were a brother of the Black-Art) doth he with

 those

those Iron engines, cut a barre of Iron in sunder, in such sorte that scarce the standers by shall heare him. The windowe being thus open, and that he hath good hope to meete with fatte Snappings (or rich purchase) the warp buckles to play his part, and watches with cats-eies in the darke, looking (like one a squint, or as if he stode to catch hares) two waies, one to spie who comes, the other to note what comes out at the window: to carry which away he is furnished with a long cloake. But first must the Curber play his prize, and that is with an Iron about nine foote in length, at whose end (being crooked) are three Tynes turned contrary, so that they catch every way, if any Snappings be within their reach. This hooke (or Curb) is made with ioynts like an Angling rod, and in the day time is conueied into the forme of a truncheon, and worne like a walking staffe till night, when it is put to doe other seruice. Whatsoeuer the Curber with his angle fishes for and takes, the Warp beares it away, and he deliuers it either to a Broker or some Bawd (for they all are of one feather,) of which Receiuers they haue as present money for it, as if they traded with Merchants. Then is there (belonging to this faculty) a Diuer, and he is iust in the nature of a Curber, for as the one practises his villany with a hooke, so the Diuer workes his Iugling feates by the help of a boy, (called a Figger) whom hee thrusts in at a casement, being so well studied that he hath the principles of the Black-Art, & can pick a lock if it be not too much crosse warded: this Figger deliuers to the Diuer what Snappings he findes in the shop or chamber.

The Prigging Lawe.

BEing weary with going thus farre on foote, let vs now (sithence we haue ouertaken a horseman) get vp and ride along with him. Yet now I looke vpon him well, it is more safety and better policie to let him ride by himselfe, for he rides circuite with the Diuell, and Dericke must bee his host, and Tiburne the Inne at which he will light. This ranck-rider is of the family of Knights-errant, or of those wandering Rogues that march in the first files of my booke, his name is a Prigger, deriuing his title from his practise, which is called the

Prig-

Prigging Lawe, whose grounds are the cleanly and cunning stealing of horses.

This Prigging Arte runnes into six riuers, all of them falling into one streame, and all of them flowing from one head.

He that steales the horse is called the Prigger.

The horse is called a Prancer.

The seller away of the stolne horse is a Martar.

The Tolling house is called Alhallowes.

The tiller is the Rifler.

The sureties at the toll-booke are called Querries.

A Prigger on foote is called a Trayler.

The Prigger if he be a lance-man (that is to say, one that is already horst) then rides he in state, attended by followers, who are either like his seruants in lineries, or in the habite of gentlemen, or most commonly in the shapes of Drouers: in this equipage doe they walke vp and downe medowes and pastures or other inclosed grounds, as if their purpose were to buy cattell, whereas their eies are onely busied in noting horses, that are worth the stealing, and whether their heeles are fettered in horse-locks or no. The first circle being drawne in y day time, the nert night following our Priggers fall to coniuring, and by the spelles of the Black Art, pick open the Tramelles or locks, & then like Batles or Diules away they fly ouer hedge and ditch out of those quarters. The owners in the morning may smell out their footesteps & see which way they are ridd post, but vnlesse the Diuell himselfe either went with a candle & lanthorne before them, the Priggers would neuer be found, or else carried them on his back, and bid them to hold fast by his hornes whilst he gallopped, it were not possible to ouertake them. For this policie they vse, if the Prigger steale a horse in York-shire, he selles him in Surrey, Kent or Sussex; and their Martars (so called of hunting Marts or Faires) who receiue the at the Priggers hands, chop them away in some blinde faires or other after they haue kept them a moneth or two, till the breath of the Hue and Crie be blowne ouer.

If the horse be of any value and much inquired after, or carry such brands or eare-markes about him, that they cánot put him off without danger, then do these Priggers brand him with a

croſſe-brand on the former, or take away his eare marke, and ſo keepe him at hard meate till he be perfectly recouered, or elſe will they ſell him in Cornewall, or Wales if he be fetched out of Cumberland, Lincolneſhire, Norfolke or Suffolke. But if the horſe be openly coloured and without Brandes, then haue they ſhifts to ſpot them ſo ſtrangely, that a man ſhall hardly knowe his owne horſe if he meete him; as to marke a black horſe with ſaddle-ſpots, or to ſtar him in the forehead, and change his taile: the ſecrets of which are not fit in print to bee diſcouered, leſt laying open the abuſe, I ſhould teach ſome how to practiſe it.

This is the life of the Prigger who trauailes vp and downe the whole kingdome vpon his geldings of 20 and 40 pound price, and is taken for a man of good worth, by his outward ſhew, being (amongſt his owne fraternity of horſe-ſtealers) called a Prigging lance-man. But he that borrowes a nag out of another mans paſture, and cares not ſo he may get money for him, how he puts him away, onely to ſupply his wants is called a Trayler: theſe Traylers trot vpon the hoofe, and are footemen meane in apparell, though not meane in their thriuing trade: you ſhall haue them attired like plaine country grans, walking (like our threedbare gallants in Poules) in boots without ſpurres, ſometimes without bootes, long ſtaues on their necks, and black buckram bags at their backs, as if they were Lawyers clients and carried letters vp and downe: But thoſe buckram bags are the horſes wardrobe: In thoſe bags doe theſe ſneaking Traylers put ſaddle, bridle, ſpurres, ſtirrops, and ſtirrop leathers; all this hackney houſhold ſtuffe being made ſo quaintly, that the deepe lap of a hoſe is able to hide it: for the ſaddle is faſhioned without any tree, (yet hath it cantle & bolſters) but artificially quilted together with cloth & bumbaſt, and with ſuch folds that it may eaſily bee wrapt vp in a little roome: the ſtirrops goe with vices and ginnes, that one may put them into a paire of gloues, ſo likewiſe doe the ſpurres, and then a little white leather head ſtall and reynes, with a ſmall ſcottiſh brake or ſnaffle, all of them ſo neatly framed, that a ſmall bag will containe them. And looke how the Lance-man rides poſt when he fits vpon his prey, ſo when the Trayler is in the ſaddle, away hee gallops as if euerie Jade of

ſeuen

ſeuen nobles price were a winged Pegaſus, telling him as farre off from the place where hee ſtole him, as poſſibly hee can.

Now becauſe theſe Priggers though they breake the Lawe in one point, yet they make it whole in another; and verie orderly come to the Call bookes, bringing 2 (of their owne religion) ciuilly attired (fitting the place) who not only affirm but offer to depoſe that they know the horſe to be his owne that ſels it; yet are theſe caitifs no better then old knights of the poſt, y will periure themſelues for pots of Ale, and neuer ſaw perhaps either the Prigger or the Prancer before: theſe wicked Elders, hauing for villanies beene banished out of Weſtminſter Hall, or for their periuries lead and laſt their eares on the pillorie, retire themſelues into the country, and profeſſe this kinde of life, being by the horſe-ſtealers called (though they are farre vnworthy of ſo good a name) Querries: leauing whom (with the horſemen their good Lords and maſters) either to an amendment of manners, or to the mercy of the Hangman, who muſt teach them to ride this wodden curtall; let vs, becauſe wee are now lifting them out of the ſaddle, turne ouer a new leafe, and read a lecture in the Lifting Lawe.

The Lifting Lawe.

THe Lifting Lawe, is not the Lawe of Porters, who liue by Lifting, and cry to one another, lend me your hand, when honeſtly they are to carry a burthen for a penny, and faithfully to deliuer it to the owner back againe: but this lawe teacheth a kind of lifting of goods cleane away. In ſuch Liftings are three ſorts of Leaguers vſed to get vp the baggage, viz.

He that firſt ſtealeth the parcell is called The Lift.

He that receiues it is the Marker.

He that fands without and carries it away, is the Santar.

The goods thus purchaſed, is called Garbage: which Garbage is ſometime plate, or Jewels, ſometimes peeces of velvet, ſometimes cloakes or Lawyers gownes, ſometimes one thing, ſometimes another.

The Practitioners of this lifting lawe, take ſeuerall degrees; for ſome of them (ſ they are the Punies) are but Vale Rogues,

that line by lifting, quart pots, platters, and such trash out of tipling houses, vnder colour of spending two or three pottes of Ale. These are the Rascalitie of this Heard. But the Gentleman Lifter walkes with his Marker at his heeles, as if he were a Country Gentleman of 500 a yeare, & comming into a Mercers or gold-smiths shop, presently calls by his cloake (to colour his intents) the Marker standing bare-headed not farre from him, his worship the calles for a bolt of Satten, Veluet, cloth of gold, or siluer, or any other of the richest commodities, and not liking the pile, colour, or backe, his eie must haue the choice of more; the Marker in the meane time whilest the Mercer is busie and turnes his back, hath the Garbage thrust towardes him by the Lifter, and conueies it vnder his cloake: the Sentar who walkes in the streete, passing then in great haste by the doore, is called back by the Marker, as if he were such a Gentlemans, Knights, or Noble-mans seruant: but the Sentar sweres he cannot stay, the Marker tels him hee must needs haue one word with him, and so stepping along with him some parte of the way, secretly conueies the Garbage to the Sentar.

Other Lifts there are, that haunt Noble-mens houses, at Marriages or solemne Reuelings in Christmas, and the Hals of companies when they make feasts, at which times they lift away goblets, or other pieces of plate, Papery, or any thing worth the ventring for.

Others ply Counsellours chambers, that are well cliented, and sit downe in the outer roomes like country men, hauing black bores by their sides, and papers in their hands: but their attendance is not for counsell, nor to pay any fees, but to Lift away gownes or cloakes, by the rules of their owne lawe. The like pare of Indentures do they draw in shops, betweene Scriueners and themselues.

Another more cunning then all these Liftings, is when in an euening, a Batfowler walkes vp and downe the streetes, and counterfets that he hath let fall a ring, a Jewell, or a peece of gold requesting some Prentice, (when there is but one in the shop) to lend him his candle a while to find his losses, who simply doth so, but the Lifter poring a good while and not meeting with his ring, lets the candle in the end slip out of his fingers, and whilest the prentice steps in to light it againe, the Sentar or he

he himselfe steales what garbage they can finger, and are gone in the meane time.

You haue another kind of Lifter, or more properly a cunning night shifter, and it is thus: You shall haue a fellow, that in an euening or night time, or sometime at noone daies, as he likes the company, and sorts his opportunity, that wil wilfully drop sometime a spoone, other while a ring, or else some peece of coined money, as the likenes of gold, and siluer, and so spurning it afore them in the view of others, to the end they should cry halfe part; which he taking hold of, saith, nay by my troth, what will you giue me and take it all? and so some greedy fooles offer thus much, thinking it gold, which the Lifter takes, as knowing it counterfeit, and so are they cunny-caught.

Then is there a kind of Lift, who like a Iugler doth all his feates of himselfe, not caring for the help of others; hee goes attired like a Seruingman, booted and spurd and dirtie as if he had new ridden; his haunts are the best townes in the country vpon market daies, but most commonly Faires: the birds he watches for are Knights, Esquires, or Gẽtlemen, that light at ẏ greatest Innes, whither most resort is, who shal no sooner come frõ horse, but this Lifter is ready to hold his stirrop, or to walk his horse as officiously as if hee wore his cloth: So that to the Guest he seemes to be one belonging to the house, and to the seruants of the house he appeares to bee a follower of the Gentleman newly alighted. But the Guest being departed from his Inne, to the towne or into the faire, back comes this counterfeit Blew coate, running in all haste for his Masters cloake-bag or portmantua, and calles to the ostler or chamberlaine by his name to deliuer it, because some things must bee taken out for his Knight or the Gentleman his Master, that are in it. The prey is put (hereupon) into the Vultures tallants, & away flies he presently to his nest, to feede and fat his rauenous gorge wt the garbage which he hath gotten.

But what nests thinke you they fly to? Marry to the house either of some notorious trebble-chind baude (in whose beddes commonly these Serpents lie lurking) who keepes a tipling house, and brings vp yong Trugs (vnder the colour of filling Kannes (that are harlots to the Lifts; or else to the shops of certaine Brokers, who traffick onely in this kind of Merchandize,

and

and by bils of sale (made in the name of Robin-Goodfellow and his crue) get the goods of honest Citizens into their hands, either detaining them so long in their chests til they be no more sought after, or else so altring them that the Owners shal hardly know them. Thus the Lift and his mates prepare the lime-twigs and catch the bird, but the Bawde and Broker, eate the flesh and giue the other onely the feathers.

The High Law.

ALL this while haue I read vnto you the beggarly Lawe, and base common Lawes of Villany, by which the Outlawes of a kingdome, and Out-casts of a well-gouerned Common wealth, maintaine their damnable courses. Now must you cast vp your eyes and looke aloft, if you haue a desire to behold the picture of the High Law: which taketh that name from the high exploits that are acted by it: the Schollers that learne it are called High Lawyers; yet they neuer walke to Westminster to pleade, though oftentimes they are called to the Barre, but then it is to haue them Hold vp their hands, that the Hangman may tell them their fortune. All the former Lawes are attained by wit, but the High Law, stands both vpon Wit and Manhood. For the High Law is nothing else but taking a purse by the High-way-side, so that to bee a good practitioner in this Law, a man needs no more but a bold sterne looke, a good heart, and a good sword; the cases that he is to plead vpon, is onely Stand and Deliuer. All trauellers are so beaten to the trials of this Law, that if they haue but rode ouer Shooters Hill, or Salisbury Plaine, they are as perfect in the principles of it, as if they had beene 7. years in the company of High-Lawyers. The Counsell a High Lawyer giues, is common, but his fees are vnreasonable, for he strips his Clients of all. The motions which hee makes are both in Terme and out of Terme; I shall not need therefore to open any of his Cases. But onely will tell you thus much, that this Highlaw is comprehended in fiue Volumes, viz.

The theefe that commits the Robbery, and is cheefe sterne to Saint Nicholas, is called the High Lawyer.

He that setteth the watch is a Scripper.

He that stands Centinell and does watch, is an Oke.

He

He that is robd, is the Martin.
When he yeeldeth it is called Stooping.

All the shires in England haue seene these High-law matters tried, and therefore if any would know them or the professors of them to a haire, let him but step into the Old Baily at any Sessions, and he shall heare more.

The Sacking Law.

THe companion of a Theefe is commonly a Whore; it is not amisse therefore, to pinneon them together: for what the theefe gets the strumpet spends. The trade of these Tale-bearers goes vnder the name of the sacking law; and rightly may it be called sacking, for as in the sacking of a City, all the villanies in the world are set abroach, so when a Harlot comes to the sacking of a mans wealth and reputation (for she besiegeth both together) she leaues no stratagem vnpractised to bring him to confusion. Westminster and Holborn haue chambers full of these students of the Sacking law. In Clerken well, they had wont and are still well cliented: White friers is famous for their meeting: The Spittle flourishes with the yong frie that are put to it to learne it. Sacks come to these Mils euery houre, but the Sacking law empties them faster then a Miller grindes his bushels of corne. He that hath a lust to practise this law, must bee furnished with these fiue bookes, viz.

The Baud, who if she be a woman is called a Pandaresse.
The Apple-squire: who is to fetch in wine.
The Whore, who is called the Commodity.
The Whore-house, which is called a Trugging place.

These fiue Authors are so well known, and haue bin so turned ouer leafe by leafe, that euery man (almost) that liues in sight of the smoake of the City, hath them at his fingers ends, or if he cannot, it is an easie matter to find them by a Table. I will only referre you to the Suburbs. But there is a second part of this Sacking law, and that instructs Punkes to attire themselues neatly in summer euenings, and about ten or eleuen of the clocke at night to walke vp and downe the most peopled streetes of the city, very soberly and gingerly, till y wine

(by one Gull or other) be offered, which with a little intreaty she takes; but being in the midst of their bowles, or perhaps the silly cony being trained home to a lodging, where he fals to Nibling; in comes a Ruffian with a drawne rapier, cals the Punke (as she is) damned whore, askes what Rogue that is, and what he does with his wife. The conclusion of all this counterfeit swaggering being a plot betwixt this panderly ruffian and the whore to geld the silly foole of all the money he hath in his purse, and sometimes to make him (rather then his credit should be called into question) to seale a bill or bond for other sums of mony at such and such dayes, and so send him packing, when he hath payd too deare for a bad dish of meate which he never tasted: the base Appleſquire and his yong mistresse, laughing to see what a woodcocke they puld, and sharing the feathers betweene them. But when such comedies (of the Sacking law) as these, are playd, then the Actors haue other names then are set downe before, and thesethey be:

The whore is then called the Traffique.
The man that is brought in, is the Simpler.
The Ruffian that takes him napping is the Crosbiter.

The Figging Law.

THe Parliament of these hel-hounds, it seemes, will soone breake vp, for they stand now onely vpon the last law; which they call Figging law: in making of which law, two persons haue the chiefe voices, that is to say, the Cutpurse & the Pickpocket, and all the branches of this law reach to none but them and such as are made free denizens of their incorporation. This Figging Law (like the body of some monstrous and terrible beast) stands vpon ten feete, or rather lifts vp proudly ten Dragon-like heads, the names of which heads are these, viz.

He that cuts the purse is called the Nip.
He that is halfe with him is the Snap, or the Cloyer.
The knife is called a Cuttle-bung.
He that pickes the pocket is called a Foyst.
He that faceth the man, is the Srale.
The taking of the purse is called Drawing.

The

The spying of this villanie is called Smoking or Boyling.
The purse is the Bung.
The money the Shels.
The act doing, is called Striking.

This Figging Law hath more quirkes and quiddities in it than any of the former; it is as dangerous to meddle with as the High-law, in pleading of whose cases men are at Dagg ers drawing: the schollers of this Art are cunning Sophisters, and had needs haue more eies then two in one head, because the Arguments they hold, and their bold villanies which they practise are argued vpon and inforced to his teeth with whom they contend. The Foist and the Nip, (that is to say, the Pocket diuer and the cut purse) are pewfellowes together and of one religion, but differ in some points. A purse well lined is the wet Eele they both bob for, but they striue to catch it by the taile after seuerall fashions. For the Nip workes with his knife, the Foist with his hand: the Nip cuts the purse, the Foist drawes the pocket: both their occupations are taught them by the Diuell, yet they both brag of the excellencie of them and are ready sometimes to stab one another, about defending which is best, for the Foist counts himselfe the better man, and therefore is called (by the liuery of his company) a gentleman Foist, and so much scornes the title of a cut purse, y he weares not a knife about him to cut his owne meate, lest hee be held in suspition to be a Nip, which he esteemes the basest office in the whole Army of Cheaters.

These schollers of the Figging lawe, are infinite in number, their Colledge is great, their orders many, and their degrees (which are giuen to them by the Seniors of the house) very ancient, but very abominable.

The language which they speak is none of those which came in at the confusion of Tongues, for neither Infidell nor Christian (that is honest) vnderstandes it, but the Dialect is such and so crabbed, that seuen yeeres study is little enough to reach to the bottome of it, and to make it run off glib from the tongue: by meanes of this Gibrish, they know their owne nation when they meete, albeit they neuer sawe one another before; and so conformeable are they to the ordinances of the Brotherhoode, that whatsoeuer y wicked Elders amongst them shall prescribe,

A fum eſt, tis a lawe, and they will not breake it: yea not the proudeſt of them dare be ſo bold as to exercíſe his Art in any other place but in thoſe that are appointed to him, nor once preſume to ſet his foote into anothers walke, but by licence of the ſigniory.

For that purpoſe therefore, (as if a whole kingdome were theirs) they allot ſuch countries to this Band of Foiſts, ſuch townes to thoſe, and ſuch a City to ſo many Nips: whereupon ſome of theſe Boote-halers are called Termers, and they ply Weſtminſter hall, Michaelmas terme is their harueſt, and they ſweat in it harder then reapers or hay-makers doe at their workes in the heate of ſommer: no Counſellor, Attourney, Petifogger nor Sollicitor is vp earelier then they: nor at the hall ſooner than they: when clients begin to come crowding in, Watermen ply not their fares more nimbly then the Nips and Foiſts beſtir themſelues to pick vp their ſhelles: the hall and ỳ old palace are their Hiues, and they worke in them like bees: ỳ Exchequer chamber, Star-chamber, Kings-bench & Common pleas, & Chancery are ỳ beds of flowers, to which they fly humming to & fro continually to ſuck the honey of gold & ſiluer. If a poore client doe but ſtand by his Lawyer, whilſt he is pleading, and drawes out his purſe to pay fees for counſell, or to the Court for diſpatch of his buſineſſe, theſe Furies are ſure to be at his elbowe, watching (with hawkes eyes,) on which ſide he puts vp his purſe, to that ſide they fly, and if their talents tã but touch it, it is their owne. Others of them haue all the fleſh and fiſh markets allowed them for their walkes, as Cheapſide, Eaſt-cheape, the Shambles, both Fiſhſtreetes, the Stockes, and ỳ Borough in Southwarke; in which places theſe faithfull Stewards of Lucifers houſhold, cheapen all commodities, only to note, what money, wiues or ſeruants that come to buy, haue in their purſes, and where they put it vp, which being well obſerued, the Stall pitis his market, and followes him or her (whoſe ſiluer is condemned) till they come to a preſſe of people, then does the Stall keepe a thruſting and a Juſtling, whilſt in the meane time the Foiſt is either in their pocket or the Nip hath the purſe fait by the ſtrings.

Others haunt Playhouſes, only & the Beare-garden: ſome haue their peregrinatyling in the walkes of Poules, their houres

of

of meeting there being betwéen 10 and 11, ẏ ſtrokes they ſtrike being ſometimes in the middle Ile if it be in Terme time. when ẏ walkes are full, but moſt cõmonly at the dores of the Church, which they will choake, and ſtriue for paſſage, whilſt another does the feate. A running at Tilt, the Lord Maiors day, any great ſhoting, any fray, any ſolemne arraignement, or execution, is better to theſe Hell hounds, than a quarter day is to a Landlord, or than 5 ſeſſions are to the hangman. Yea ſo feareles are theſe Diue ls to be thrownе headlong, e quick into the pit of damnation, that euen in Gods owne houſe e the ſacred Temple) doe they deſperately commit their villanies, ſtanding moſt deuoutly with eies eleuated vp to heauen, before the preacher, where the preſſe of people is thickeſt, whilſt their hãds are nibling in honeſt mens pockets for their purſes, who are careles of ſuch worldly matters there, as not miſtrucking that any ſo bad-minded dare enter into ſo holy a place. Theſe Nips and Foiſts goe oftentimes cleanly away with the ſpoiles which they get, but oftentimes are they dogged by certaine followers (called Cloyers) who hang vppon them like Burres, and are more troubleſome than waſpes: for no ſooner is a Bung dra wne, but the Cloyer ſteps in for his Tenth, which hee cales Snappage, if the Nip denie Snappage the Cloyer forthwith Boyles him, that is, betrayes him, or ſeaſeth on his cloake.

You muſt vnderſtand likewiſe, that both of Nips and Foiſts there are two ſortes, for there be City Nips and country Nips, whoſe office is to haunt nothing but Faires: theſe country Nips neuer come into London to doe any peece of ſeruice, but at Bartholmewtide onely. Betweene theſe two ſects, is mortall enmity, for if the City Foiſt ſpy one of the country Foiſts in London, he forthwith labours and layes waite to ſmoake or Boyle him, the like does the country Nip or Foiſt by him of the City. There are alſo women Foiſts and Nips aſwell as men, but farre more dangerous then the men: All the troopes of both ſexes being ſubiect to the diſcipline of the Grand Nips e Foiſts, and from whom, the better to receiue directions both what to doe, and what quarters to keepe (for they ſhift their walkes according to the pleaſure of the chiefe Rangers) they haue a certaine houſe ſometimes at one end of the towne ſometimes at another, which is their hall, at this Hall the whole company do

meete very orderly. By which meanes whensoeuer any notable Warlike Stroke is stricken, though it were as farre as the North-borders, yet can the rest of the Fig-boies here resident in London, tell by whom this worthy Act was plaid.

At this solemne meeting in their Hall, they choose Wardens & a Steward: the Wardens office is to establish wholesom lawes to keepe life in their rotten common wealth, and to assigne out to euery man his Stations. The Treasurers office is very truly (though he be an arrant theefe) to render an account of such monies as are put into his hands vpon trust: for of euery purse (that is cleanly conueied and hath good store of Shelles in it) a ratable proportion is deliuered (in Banck as it were) to the Treasurer, to the intent that when any of them is taken and cast into prison, a Flag of truce may presently be hung out, and composition offered to the wronged party, thereby to saue a brother of the Society from riding Westward. This had wont to be an order amongst them: But now the Vnder keepers of Newgate, (if complaint bee made to them for the losse of any purse) haue a trick to get a warrant, into which warrant they put the names of 9 or ten of the most notorious Foists and Nips that are free of their Gaole (which they call VVhittington Colledge,) and those Nips or Foists doe the Jaylors nip, till the money (perhaps double) be restored, albeit not one of them y are specified in the warrant were guilty of the fact: This trick doth greatly impouerish the tradesmen of this mystery, and may in time vtterly ouerthrow the students of the Figging Law.

The Fiue Iumpes at Leap-frog.

The whole volume of these detestable Lawes is now read ouer; to catch a heate therefore after so long sitting, let vs exercise our selues a while at a new play, called The fiue Iumps at Leap-frog. The property of the game at Leap-frog, is (as euery prentice and Carter knowes) for one man to stoope, and to let another come ouer him; so in these Iumpes the running cheaters sweate only to make a man stoope so lowe, that they may breake his backe, and then they ride ouer his miserie with laughter.

The

The first Iump is called Horse-courting, and that is done thus: A fellow in good clothes and with an honest face to the eie, hires of a carter a Nag to ride along with him to Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich, or any great towne of trade: but let the iourney be neuer so long, this Rider will end it in a forenoone at most, for whilst the Carter is busie about his teeme on the way and looking to his charge, my horsecourser steps aside into some by-lane, and lights at some paltry towne neere the citty where he will lie, till he haue in capons and wine eaten vp the Carriers beast aliue, and then departs on foote, sending the poore man word where his prancer stands at rack and Manger, who if he will haue him must disburse forty shillings or three pound for his Iades diet. The Hackney-men of Rochester haue been oftentimes come ouer with this Iump at Leap-frog, and know the game well, for a man cannot name it but they are ready to giue it a curse.

The second Iump is called carying of stones, and that is performed in this maner: A crue of Sharking companions (of which there be sundry consorts lurking about the suburbs of this City) being driuen out of meanes, by leading base and idle lines, or else by their riotous expences amongst whores, practise to liue vpon the fee simple of their wits; hauing amongst them all some little money left (which they call their Shooing-horne) they seeke out some blind victualling house, or Cookes house, without the barres, whose Host (if it be possible) is either an asse easie to be ridden, or else a common drunkard. In this Colts house will they sit carowsing halfe-cannes day and night, and pay royally at first for what they call, that shooing-horne of theirs drawing the Host and Hostesse on to beleeue they shall be made for euer by these guests, who to gull the poore Goose-cap the better, draw all their acquaintance they can to y house, neuer either drinking or feeding, but mine Host must sit at the boards end like a Magnifico in pomp, with his ale-dropt greasie doublet shining by candle light, as if it were an old rusty Armor scuruily scowred. But whē these Horse-leeches haue sucht their guts full, or rather the pitifully-complaining Hosts guts empty, that he findes by his scores he can trust no more: then do they at one time or other talke of state matters, or of Religion, when the Goodman of the house can scarce stand on his legs

vnder

vnder his owne roofe, and trip him in some words, which the next day (being told of it, and the words instified to his face) he knowes he dares not answere; with which booke holding his nose to the grindstone, they write their mind in great round Oes of chalke, behinde a doore, which Oes they call stones: the waight of them being such, that looke how many shillings they make, so many times the wretched Hostesse cries O, as groning vnder the burden. Now sir of these Oes, twenty shillings make a loade, and ten pound make a Barge full: which when they haue well freighted, these Dunkirkes hoyst Saile and to Sea againe, they goe in another vessell to finde another Brasseman, that is to say, into another tipling house to finde another lade whom they may all saddle and get vp vpon: if their last Host follow them with a Bailiefe or a Sergeant, they only hold vp a finger, naming a Pursuant and cry Mum, no more mine Host, you wot what: which words are of more power to blow him away, then if they firde him thence with traines of gunpowder. By meanes of this Iump, some Victuallers haue leaped cleane out of doores, and with the fall haue beene ready to lie in the streetes.

The third Iump is called Fawning, those that leape at it are Fawneguests, and that is done in the edge of an euening, when a Cheater meeting a stranger in the darke and taking him for another, gets the stranger by some slight to a Tauerne, where calling for two pintes of sundry wines, the drawer setting the wines downe with two cups, as the custome is, the Iumper tastes of one pinte (no matter which) and findes fault with the wine, saying tis too hard, but rose-water and sugar would send it downe merrily, and for that purpose takes vp one of the cuppes, telling the stranger he is well acquainted with the Boy at the barre; and can haue two peny worth of rosewater for a peny of him, and so steps from his seate, the stranger suspecting no harme, because the Fawne-guest leanes his cloake at the end of the table behinde him. But this Iump comming to be measured, it is found that he that went to take his rising at the barre, hath stolne ground and out-leaped the other more sets than he can recouer in hast, for the cup is leaped away with him, for which the woodcock that is taken in the springe, must pay fifty shillings or three pound, and hath nothing but

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an old threedbare cloake not worth 10 groates to make amends for his losses.

The fourth Iump is called Fooltaking, and that is done seuerall waies, sometimes by letting a couple of suttle rogues to sing ballads on a stall, till a number of people presse about them to buy their trash, and then their purses being discouered, are quickly in the Nips fingers. Others are Foole-taken by letting chambers to fellowes like seruingmen, in the name of such an Esquire, or such a Knight, or such a Captaine new come frō the low countries, bringing in a trunck exceeding heauy, and crambd full of brick-bats, which is left in the hired chamber, & fiue times the value of it lifted away in stead of it. With this Iump, many maid seruants, and their wealthy Maisters haue beene ouer-reached by counterfeit kinsemen that haue brought a cheese or a gammon of Bacon to the poore wench, claiming kinred of her whether she will or no, and afterwards being (for his cheese and bacon) inuited to the Citizens table, haue in the night time taken away plate, or other commodities in exchange of his whit-meates.

The 8ft Iump, is called Spoone-meate, and that is a messe of knauerie serued in about Supper time in the edge of an euening likewise: It is done thus: A silly fellow in shew, attired like a clowne, spurnes (being nere some candle that stāds on a stall) a paper before him, in which is wrapt vp a spoone: taking vp which and looking on it by the light, and making it knowne (by his loud talking & wondring what he hath found) that he tooke it vp by chance, people flocke about him, and imagine it is a siluer and gilt spoone, for it lookes very faire, but he seeming to be an innocent coxcomb, knowes not, he saies, what he should doe with such a gew-gawe, whereupon euery one is catching at it, and offers him money for it, he wishes he had rather found money than such a bable, for he eates not his pottage in plate; in the end some For amongst all the Cubbes that stand about him, whispers in his eare, to haue it from all the rest and thrusts a crowne pritily into his hand. The Iumper takes it, and sneakes away, the other gets home as fast as he can, longing till he call his wife, all his houshold and neighbors about him, to shewe what a penny-

worth hee met with, but the guilt spoone comming to be tried of what mettall hee is made, the poore mans money prooues copper, and hee himselfe is laughed at for a Coxcombe.

How long shall I faile vpon these godlesse waters? Is it not time to get to shore? Is it not fit that I should now sound a retreate and not weary my pen in the execution of such base and barbarous minded Caitiefs? What a battaile haue I vndertaken? and with what an ignoble enemie? to contend with whom, is an act inglorious, and to conquer whom, (but that they are open and professed foes to the Republick, to honesty, to ciuility, and to all humanity) were as much dishonor, as by them to be ouercome. Who would imagine that in a Kingdom so fertile in all sorts of wholesome discipline, there should grow vp such ranck and such pestilent beds of hemlock? that in the very hart of a state so rarely gouerned & dieted by good lawes, there should breede such loathsome and such vlcerous impostumes? that in a City so politick, so ciuill, and so seuere, such vgly, base and bold impieties dare shew their faces? What an Army of insufferable Abuses, detestable Vices, most damnable Villanies, abominable Pollutions, inexplicable Mischiefes, sordid Inquinations, horrible and Hel-hound-like-perpetrated flagitious enormities haue beene here mustred together? vnder what diuellish commanders are they conducted? what colors of damnation doe they fight vnder? what dismal Ensignes doe they spred? what forces doe they bring into the field? how full of courage they are? how full of cunning? how politick are the Ringleaders of these Faries? how resolute are all the troopes, what strange Armor haue they (of subtiltie, & desperate boldnes) to encounter and set vpon their opposites? what Artillery haue they to batter downe, Order, Law, Custome, plaine dealing, and all the good guards and defences of Gouernement? What remaineth therefore, (in an assault so dangerous to a Common wealth, and so hotly and daily prosecuted,) but that Justice her selfe must come into the field, leading with her all her forces? That the Triple Body of the state may knit all their Nerues together and sit in Counsell, setting downe stratagems and lawes how to race for euer (out of so noble a Kingdome)

such

such rebels to the peace and honour of it? That the Reuerend Judges may (out of a detestation of the liues of these monsters) lock vp their eies and eares from pitty, when any of these Sauages are caught and brought before them? That all inferior ministers of Justice, may be vigilant, faithfull and seuere in hunting them into Gaoles, that are the fittest toyles for them to fall into, and that the hangman may not be lazing & complaine for want of worke, so many infested bodies being to bee found in euery corner of the Land, whom no medicine can cure, but [illegible]ysicke which he bestowes vpon him at the Ga[illegible]? Where I leaue them, as to the hauen in w[illegible]hey must all cast anchor, if Dericks Cables doe but hold, (and vnlesse they amend.) Giue thankes to The Bel-man of London, if either profit or pleasure be gained by the Discouerie.

FINIS.